

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2024

Kristen Clarke  
Civil Rights Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Office of the Assistant Attorney General, Main  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke:


We have observed an alarming increase in incidents of vandalism at houses of worship across the country including at Hindu *mandirs* (“temples”). We, the undersigned Members of Congress of South Asian descent, write to request a briefing from the Department of Justice on the status of investigations concerning these crimes to better understand existing law enforcement coordination between local agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Civil Rights Division.

Attacks at *mandirs* from New York to California have contributed to increased collective anxiety among Hindu Americans.<sup>1</sup> Leaders from these impacted communities have expressed there are unfortunately “no leads” on suspects, leaving many to continue to live in fear and intimidation. Our communities remain concerned about law enforcement coordination regarding these bias-motivated crimes, and they are left wondering if there is appropriate federal oversight to ensure equal protection under the law.

The number of incidents and the closeness of the timing of incidents raise troubling questions about linkages and the intent behind them. It takes relatively few coordinated acts of hate to create fear nationally within a community that has often been marginalized or neglected, and we must work collaboratively to combat hate against all religious, ethnic, racial, and cultural minorities in America. We therefore request that you provide us with an understanding of what the Department’s strategy is specifically concerning hate crimes targeting Hindus in the United States.

Given the urgency of the situation, we ask that you provide us with a briefing no later than Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

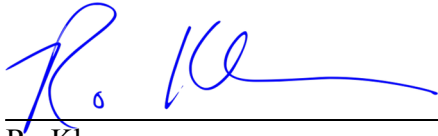


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Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

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<sup>1</sup> *The Washington Post*. “Anti-Hindu attacks grow, from NY to a California Taco Bell.” ([August 29, 2022](#))



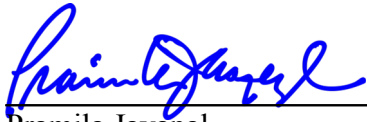
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Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress