

OpenVoiceNews India

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Victim Retracts Statement in Chhattisgarh Trafficking Case, Alleges Coercion

August 1, 2025

– Categories: Human Rights



Download IPFS

. A key witness in a high-profile human trafficking case in Chhattisgarh has retracted her earlier statement that implicated three individuals, including two Catholic nuns. The individual now claims she was coerced by members of the Bajrang Dal into signing the original complaint. The retraction has raised questions about the integrity of the evidence and the broader handling of the case.

The case, filed under anti-human trafficking and anti-conversion laws, involved allegations of forced religious conversion and exploitation. The two nuns and a third person were taken

into custody earlier this year. These laws are enforced across several Indian states and are designed to address coercive or fraudulent practices related to religion and trafficking.

In her latest statement to authorities, the complainant alleged that she was pressured into falsely accusing the individuals. She named members of the Bajrang Dal, a Hindu nationalist group, as those responsible for the alleged coercion. The authorities have not yet confirmed whether they will pursue a fresh inquiry into these claims or amend the existing charges.

Legal experts note that changes in witness testimony can significantly affect the prosecution's case, particularly when the testimony forms the core of the accusation. Under Indian law, a retracted statement that lacks corroborating evidence may weaken the basis for further legal proceedings.

The case has drawn attention due to its sensitive nature, involving both legal and religious dimensions. Observers have highlighted the role of non-state actors in influencing public complaints and police investigations. Such interference, some legal analysts argue, can complicate the judicial process.

Officials have not commented on whether the retraction will lead to the dismissal of charges or a review of the case. The matter remains under investigation.

The development comes amid ongoing discussions about the use and interpretation of anti-conversion laws in India. While these laws aim to prevent coercive conversions, their application often leads to intense scrutiny, particularly in regions where religious tensions are already elevated.

As legal proceedings continue, both the accused and the complainant await the next steps in the case.