

A full situation briefing document accompanies this press release, providing an overview of sectors and companies at risk, as well as the developments leading up to the alert.

GLOBAL CORPORATIONS AT RISK FROM “SERIOUS THREAT OF CIVIL UNREST” IN ORISSA, INDIA, STATES VERATECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Kirkland, Washington, December 3 2008): International corporations with a presence in the Indian state of Orissa, especially those with mining and refining interests, are at serious risk, according to the Veratect Corporation, which rates the area at its highest alert level following extremist Hindu activity and threats of civil unrest.

Veratect, which monitors and assesses civil, terrorist and biological risk, has warned companies that their supply chains could face material disruption. Robert Hart, the company’s CEO, also urged insurers and reinsurers to monitor the situation carefully as it is “extremely volatile”. Security was tightened in Orissa yesterday (*December 2*) following increased activity and threats from Maoist groups in the area.

The company’s sources – numbering more than 30,000 and quantified through 300 independent variables and verified by local aid workers – have confirmed that extremist Hindu groups offered "money, food and alcohol to mobs to kill Christians and destroy their homes". These allegations were made following the British Government’s refusal to prevent members of the two radical Hindu groups, linked to the worst anti-Christian violence in India since 1947, from entering Britain.

Further Christian leaders are now being targeted by Hindu militants. According to sources, at least 67 Christians have been murdered in recent months, with several thousand homes and 'hundreds' of places of worship destroyed. An estimated 11,000 Christian refugees are now living in camps in Kandhamal (the worst affected district).

Hart explained: “The violence had subsided in recent weeks, after being triggered in August by the murder of Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati, a senior figure in the hard-line Hindu group, Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP). But our recent tracking and analysis has moved the risk level back up to our highest alert level.”

Mark Polyak, Vice President of Situational Awareness, said: “The world has been watching the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, but we would urge corporations to be vigilant of this increased risk in the east of India, which has the potential to cause substantial losses to businesses with operations in the area.”

Mining and refining operations are particularly vulnerable, explained Polyak. Orissa contains a fifth of India's coal and a quarter of its iron ore, and has attracted substantial international investment in aluminum, coal-based power plants, petrochemicals, and information technology.

Veratect has brought many decades of subject matter expertise, previously devoted solely to government analysis of emerging bio-risks to provide the private sector with the earliest possible warnings of risk events. This technology provides just such earliest possible event identification and links it to a quantification of economic exposure to businesses and humans, thereby enabling companies to keep a closer eye on their assets and liabilities.

A key economic analysis component of Veratect's methodology is the PEERview™ (Proprietary Economic Exposure Reference view) dashboard with which corporations apply the risk economics that tie directly to their own operations and to thereby quantify the potential impact of both emerging and abating risk events as applied to their net income, gross revenue, and shareholder equity.

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About Veratect

Leveraging concepts developed and tested over many years by government, Veratect was established in 2007 to provide the earliest detection of potential threats to human, animal and plant life while empowering corporations, government organizations, NGOs and global citizens with trusted and actionable information. By identifying risks early, actions can be taken that can save lives, enable effective loss control, preserve business processes, safeguard supply chain operations and facilities, and better manage financial reporting and insurance coverage.

For further information on Veratect, contact:

Clare Bowles, Veratect Corporation
1 (866) 599-9281 or clare@veratect.com

For international inquiries on Veratect, contact:

Kirstie Hepburn
+33 4 9373 9462 or veratect@globalleadersevents.com