

Kandhamal riot victims asked to shun fear

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Bhubaneswar, Feb 5 (PTI) Assuring protection for all, Kandhamal district administration today asked riot-affected people to shun fear and return to their villages.

The call was given by communally-fragile Kandhamal's district magistrate-cum-collector Krishna Kumar after meeting a delegation of diplomats from nine European Union countries.

"I assure all help to those who want to return to their villages," Kumar told the visiting EU delegation during his two-hour long discussion at Phulbani this morning.

Kumar, who had been in-charge of Kandhamal when the riot broke out in August 2008, told the EU diplomats that there was "no element of fear" in the district as there had been no violence for over 15 months.

"This is my message to the people who say that they are unable to return to villages due to fear of riot," Kumar said, adding the administration would ensure that all the people return to their native places.