Twitter Thread by Swati Goel Sharma



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A short story:

In Nov 2018, a man from UP's Shamli named Saleem gave an affidavit in local court that he and his family were changing religion. News leaked in local media and became national news. I also visited him and wrote a report +

Saleem was born in Hindu Jat family and named Susheel. He was left orphaned at 8. One Mohd Sabdar picked him from streets and took him in as assistant in his transport business. Sabdar changed his name to Saleem and even got him circumcised as Islamic ritual +

When he turned 15, Sabdar got him married to Wajida. As Saleem grew independent, he left Sabdar & began to work for another transporter, a Punjabi Hindu. Susheel told me Sabdar never paid him a salary

In 2018 when he was 31, he decided to revert to his original name and faith +

Wajida supported him. Things were fine till her father Israel arrived from Jharkhand. He tried to change Saleem's mind. When he remained adamant, Israel brainwashed Wajida into leaving him. When Saleem went for a tour, Israel quietly took Wajida and their 5 kids to Jharkhand +

Saleem immediately went to Jharkhand on his return. Israel asked him to read kalma again and serve Tablighi Jamaat for 40 days as penance. Saleem refused. He did not have Wajida's support anymore.

On 16 Jan, he sent me a Whatsapp video saying he was ready to commit suicide +

I called him in panic and told him not to do that. I made a call to @SanjeevSanskrit and @DharmaOfVedas. Together, we managed to convince him to return to Shamli immediately

It's been a year since these developments. Today, Susheel is happy and lives with his family +

He doesn't live in Shamli anymore as he fears his father-in-law taking his children away or his house getting attacked again by some neighbours.

Here’s the story of what all happened over the last year:

https://t.co/Zist8kzBP1

Here’s a video of Wajida and Susheel/Saleem when I visited them in Nov 2018 https://t.co/7IPuryPsTW

> This is what Susheel's wife Wajida told me in Nov when I asked her about her husband's decision to change his and family's religion. (I was giggling not at her answer but because her son had started rolling on floor in a funny way)
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> Today, Susheel's family no more lives with him pic.twitter.com/hzWKIuuDVC
>
> — Swati Goel Sharma (@swati_gs) January 25, 2020