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सार्वदेशिक आर्य प्रतिनिधि सभा

WORLD COUNCIL OF ARYA SAMAJ



“दयानन्द भवन”, 3/5, आसफ अली रोड  
(रामलीला मैदान), नई दिल्ली-110002  
“Dayanand Bhawan”, 3/5, Asaf Ali Road  
(Ramliila Ground), New Delhi-110002

To

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Papal Office, Vatican, Rome.  
Italy

21/01/2019

*Respected Pope Francis*

Greetings from the 1.3 billion people of India.

It is with much expectation and confidence in your robust sense of justice, that I address this letter concerning the harassment to which four sisters of the Missionaries of Jesus order in Kerala are being subjected for the stand they took in solidarity with a fellow nun, who has had to go through harrowing experiences at the hands of a bishop by the name Franco Mulakkal.

In a measure that reeks of vindictiveness, the Mother Superior of the order has issued transfer orders to Sister Alphy Pallasseril, Sister Anupama Kelamangalathuvelyil, Sister Josephine Villoonnickal, and Sister Ancitta Urumbil. This is, prima facie, punitive in nature and uncharitable.

The people of India respect these nuns for the bold stand they took in serving as a voice in the wilderness, crying for justice for the oppressed victim. I am sure you will agree that it is basic to their devotion to Jesus Christ, who came to uphold God's justice on earth. It is indeed shocking that, while the concerned diocese and its religious orders go easy on the alleged rapist, it is targeting those who stood and struggled for justice for the victim.

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The fact that the Roman Catholic Church in India did not respond proactively in the matter of the sexual exploitation of a nun has already caused extensive damage to the image of the church in India. Now, to make matters worse, certain functionaries of the church are compounding tolerance towards heinous crimes with intolerance towards commitment to justice. Surely, this cannot be in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I urge you, because of my personal faith in your bold and unapologetic commitment to justice for the oppressed, to intervene in this matter and to defend the sisters from being harassed.

I am deeply disturbed by this turn of events, though I have no direct connection or involvement in the matter. If that is the way I feel from a distance about this issue, I can well imagine how indignant the people of Kerala are feeling about this. Keralites, irrespective of their religious identities, rallied round these nuns and stood in solidarity with them throughout their struggle for justice. There is widespread anger at the injustice being done to them.

I have public meetings in the State Kerala later this month and I hope to be able to visit these nuns in person to be in solidarity with them, as I firmly believe they deserve to be loved and cherished for their passion for justice.

Sincerely,



Swami Agnivesh  
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