



# PRESIDENT

OF THE FEDERATION OF ASIAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCES

**Archbishop's House**

289 Theinbyu Road

Botataung P.O. 11161

Yangon, MYANMAR

Tel: 95-1-392517 / 392667 / 245467

Email: [mcharlesbo@gmail.com](mailto:mcharlesbo@gmail.com); [secygn@gmail.com](mailto:secygn@gmail.com)

---

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2019

Press Release by Charles Cardinal BO

On behalf of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences, and the Church in Myanmar, I condemn unequivocally the horrific unprovoked suicide bomb attacks against unarmed civilians in churches and hotels on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 in Sri Lanka. Many were targeted while celebrating the most auspicious and joyous moments in the Christian calendar – the victory of life over death in the Resurrection of Christ. Sadly, those who seek to promote discord and hate were at work on that day that took so many precious lives, sowing death and destroying life.

The Church is deeply concerned by reports of revenge and the targeting of Muslim residents, refugees and asylum seekers in Sri Lanka. Many have fled persecution in their own lands, and are now being targeted again. Almost 900 have been reported to have been at risk of reprisal, 150 of these were forced to seek shelter in police stations.

Terrorism is designed to breed hatred and sow discord, and the enemy of terrorism is love and community, peace and harmony. Is there any difference between us and the terrorists if we target innocent people based on hatred or for being different?

Christians and Muslims in Sri Lanka are both minorities and have faced similar discrimination, intolerance and persecution. Turning against each other will only make their plight worse. Solidarity must prevail. The actions of a small group, representing an extreme interpretation of a religion, must not be used to judge the entirety of adherents to that faith.



We call upon religious and community leaders to foster a sense of solidarity and rebuild trust between the communities.

We call upon the authorities in Sri Lanka to take action to stop hate speech, and protect the vulnerable. Ignoring this issue will only foster resentment, which is exactly what groups such as ISIS desire.

We cover the victims and families of victims in prayer, praying for physical and emotional healing and that love may prevail. Let us not give hate a foothold in our lives. Instead, let love for one another reign.

The Federation of Asian Bishops, and the Church in Myanmar, stand in solidarity with all who suffer persecution and hatred, and stand against all forms of intolerance, hatred, discrimination, violence and injustice. And we stand ready to help our brothers and sisters in humanity, of all faiths, in Sri Lanka.

+ Charles

Charles BO  
President of Asian Bishops Conferences  
Archbishop of Yangon - Myanmar