

Religious and Priests for Human Rights

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Statement issued by the members of “Religious and Priests for Human Rights - RPHR”

Why they had to die in vain ?

April 23, Tuesday 2019 was declared a ‘day of national mourning’ by the Sri Lankan government, with the call to remember those who lost their lives and suffered injuries for nothing.

We, together with the Sri Lankans and the members of the international community mourn the death of over two hundred and fifty innocent persons and the injured still recovering in hospitals in the country. While our prayers are together with them, their loved ones, we also hasten to raise questions about the security lapses that may have permitted this carnage. The Christians had just commemorated the death and the suffering of Christ, who was once again made to suffer in His members. Let us wish them a life in Him away from this man-made cruelty.

The Christian community in this moment of tragedy stood together, suffered patiently without having recourse to any acts of revenge. If the terrorists had the intention to provoke the community to retaliate, the suspected and now the declared members of the Muslim organization, it did not happen. It is a clear defeat to those that planned and executed this carnage together with all their accomplices and a moment to witness to the spirit of Christ.

We, the members of the Religious and Priests for Human Rights - RPHR, insists on conducting impartial inquiries to determine the institutions and the heads of the institutions that permitted this mayhem and be prosecuted irrespective of their standing in the community. Instead of the tax payers money being used in this instant to compensate the victims, that those responsible be compelled to meet most of the expenses as part of their punishment.

We the members of RPHR would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Christian community for abiding by the Spirit of the Risen Lord, and the members of the Forces for taking appropriate action at least after the mayhem to prosecute those alleged perpetrators.

Our prayers are with the members of the families that lost their lives and the injured and hope that they continue to be sustained both by the efforts of the government and of the larger community, as had been witnessed these last few days.

While expressing our deepest sympathies to the families and friends of those foreign nationals who lost their lives and are injured, we request the other countries to add their voices in seeking answers regarding the failure of the security establishment in the country which allowed this great tragedy to occur in this massive scale.

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(Coordinating Team of RPHR)

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