



International Christian Peace Movement

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Media Statement: Arbitrary Executions Will Not Save Myanmar

Pax Christi Australia absolutely condemns the Myanmar junta for the cruel execution of activists, as well as the ongoing cruel repression of human rights since the coup against the elected government. Pax Christi Australia is part of the International Christian Peace Movement, Pax Christi International. Pax Christi Australia is also part of the Asia-Pacific Pax Christi Facilitation Group that includes various countries from this region.

Hands off Cain and **Amnesty International** report that as more and more countries have been taking steps to abolish the death penalty. The Myanmar government by resuming executions, the first since 1989 of four democracy activists accused of aiding in alleged "terror acts" must be condemned by all religious and humanist groups.

We urge the Australian Government on our behalf to speak out strongly against such brutal actions, that have the aim to suppress any right of people's freedom to protest against unjust laws

The people of Myanmar have been suffering from hardships and chaos since the coup under a military regime that has imposed its rule for six five decades. This action will not contribute to national reconciliation. What has happened is a gross disrespect for the people of Myanmar and the people of peace and good will around the world.

Pax Christi wishes to stand with all who continue to hope for a peace agreement. Though the regime has demonstrated that it will not listen to the pleas of the people, these actions by the military junta do not reflect strength but weakness.

Again, Pax Christi, following the nonviolent Jesus while drawing attention to and the spiritual teachings of Buddha and many other spiritual leaders, unconditionally opposes the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances. We are also impelled to stand with the people of Myanmar in their legitimate resistance against human rights violations and search for peace.

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*Pax Christi is a Christian worldwide movement for peace and disarmament.
It regards justice and human rights as central to peacebuilding
and fosters the spiritual dimension of peacemaking.*

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