



Christian Conference of Asia

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Pastoral letter on the Situation in Myanmar

To:

The Members of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) member churches in Myanmar, and the Myanmar Council of Churches

Dear brothers and sisters,

The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) observe with alarm and great sadness the recent developments in Myanmar, which resulted in a sharp reversal of years of reforms for the democratic enfranchisement of Myanmar's people. It is with profound concern that we follow the current developments in your country, especially the abrupt resumption of military rule, overturning the outcome of elections on 8 November 2020, as well as the detention of key political and pro-democracy representatives and the escalation of the national situation to the state of emergency. We pray that the recent development will not lead to an escalation of violence and suffering in your country.

We urge a swift and peaceful return to the path of democracy, and appeal for the human rights and freedoms – including the freedom of religion or belief – of all Myanmar's people to be fully respected and protected.

We hold the churches and communities of Myanmar in prayer and solidarity, as you seek to provide counsel and comfort to your people in this time of deep anxiety and uncertainty for the future. We pray that the one who has given us "a new birth into a living hope" (1 Peter 1.3) will sustain and strengthen you in your efforts to be prophetic witnesses at a time such as this. We pray that you will be strengthened and supported in your ministry and witness for peace, justice and human dignity. It is our fervent prayer

and hope that all parties involved to engage in meaningful and constructive dialogue which will lead to lasting peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.

In a spirit of solidarity we offer you the assurance of our continued prayers and support. May God almighty help us to be courageous and take refuge in the words from the second letter to the Thessalonians: “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.” (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17).

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Prof. Dr Ioan Saucă
General Secretary

World Council of Churches



Dr Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary

Christian Conference of Asia

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