



World Council of Churches

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Church of Pakistan
Presbyterian Church of Pakistan

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Dear sisters and brothers of Pakistan,

We stand with you in solidarity and prayer on this deeply distressing day as we receive shocking reports of violent attacks against churches and Christians in the Jaranwala district in the Punjab province of Faisalabad, Pakistan. We are saddened to note that numerous churches have been desecrated and burnt, and several houses of Christians have been looted and torched after two Christians were accused of blasphemy.

Presbyterian churches, Catholic churches, Full Gospel Assembly churches, and Salvation Army centres, have reportedly been burnt, and Christian clergy threatened and harassed. Hundreds of Christian families have fled their homes to escape the mob violence.

We pray that peace will reign and that all people, sacred places of worship, and property are protected from violence and hatred.

We pray that all communities will stand together and protect each other, and that the government and the authorities will take responsibility for protecting all and ensuring that even the most vulnerable do not have to live in fear.

We, the global ecumenical community, are with you in peace and action, advocating for your protection and welfare.

As you face uncertainty and cope with pain and loss, please take comfort in the words of 2 Samuel 22:3-4:

*My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation,
my stronghold and my refuge,
my saviour; you save me from violence.*

May God protect, guide, and comfort you in the midst of these tribulations.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Prof. Dr Jerry Pillay
General Secretary
World Council of Churches