

**CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY**

Archbishop of Hyderabad



**THE ARCHDIOCESE OF HYDERABAD**

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**STATEMENT FROM CARDINAL POOLA ANTHONY  
ARCHBISHOP OF HYDERABAD  
REGARDING MANIPUR VANDALISM**

It is with a heavy heart and deep concern we are issuing this statement to strongly condemn the recent attack and persecution of Christians in the peaceful state of Manipur in the North East. I sincerely express my solidarity with the affected communities. While condemning these despicable acts, we ask our faithful Christians and defenders of democracy not to react violently.

Recent news reports show that a number of Churches and other Church properties are set on fire and are vandalized. Many people are living in fear amidst disturbances all around. The lives of the people especially the Christians are at danger. The Christian communities are displaced and are under threat.

Places of worship, such as churches, hold immense significance for believers. They serve as sacred spaces where individuals gather to seek solace, find strength, and nurture their spiritual lives. The attack on these holy sites not only violates the sanctity of these places but also inflicts pain, fear, and sorrow upon the faithful.

As you are well aware, Christianity is a faith that promotes love, peace, and harmony among all people. It is disheartening to witness the increasing violence, discrimination, and hostility directed towards Christians solely because of their religious beliefs. Such acts not only violate the fundamental principles of religious freedom and human rights but also undermine the very foundations of a just and tolerant society.

It is essential for us, as a peace-loving community, to stand together against such acts of persecution and ensure the protection of religious minorities, including Christians.

We urge the government and the concerned parties to engage in diplomatic efforts, dialogue and peaceful negotiations. By doing so, we can foster an environment of religious tolerance, respect, and understanding, ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their faith, can live in peace and harmony. I call upon the authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into these attacks and bring the perpetrators to justice.

*+ P. Poola Anthony*



It is essential that the law enforcement agencies prioritize the safety and security of all places of worship and take necessary measures to prevent further incidents of this nature. We strongly believe that our collective commitment to upholding religious freedom and protecting the rights of Christians will pave the way for a more compassionate, inclusive and a just society.

To the affected communities, I offer my heartfelt condolences, prayers, and support during this difficult time. Know that you are not alone, and the entire archdiocese stands in solidarity with you. We will work tirelessly to assist you in rebuilding and healing the wounds inflicted upon your faith communities.

Furthermore, I urge all people of goodwill, regardless of their religious affiliation, to come together and reaffirm our shared commitment to religious freedom, tolerance, and respect. Let us engage in interfaith dialogue, fostering a spirit of understanding and cooperation that can lead us towards a future free from violence and discrimination.

In conclusion, I extend my deepest sympathies to those who have been affected by these attacks. May the love and mercy of our Lord provide comfort and strength to all those who are suffering. Let us hold fast to our faith, united in our resolve to combat hatred and promote peace, and trust in God's abiding presence amidst these challenging times.

May God bless and protect us all.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,



+Cardinal Poola Anthony  
Archbishop of Hyderabad

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