Press Release

NCJP condemns assassination of Benazir Bhutto

The National Commission for Justice and Peace (NCJP), a human rights body of the Catholic Church in Pakistan has condemned the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and 22 workers of Pakistan Peoples Party at Rawalpindi, calling the tragic incident a national loss.

In a statement issued by the Chairperson and Executive Secretary of NCJP, Archbishop Lawrence John Saldanha and Peter Jacob said that while the incident has deeply anguished the nation it also raised questions about the effectiveness of so-called war against extremism. NCJP demanded that the policies regarding governance and political participation should be reviewed thoroughly, because it is not possible to face the challenge of extremism without giving the civil society its due freedom. Moreover, the individuals and institutions assigned to maintain security and peace have to be made accountable for lapses and shortcomings. The goal is achievable only through establishing a rule of law.

The reoccurrence of suicide bombing manifests the impunity available to terrorists to take lives of the innocent people. This tragedy demands that the incident should be properly investigated without delay and the culprits behind this should be brought to justice.

“We extend our deepest condolences to Benazir Bhutto’s family and her party and we wish them courage and perseverance in these trying times. We also resolve that the civil society of Pakistan and NCJP will stand united against abuse of human rights and work together till the rule of law and democracy is established in the country. We call upon then people of Pakistan to remain peaceful and united to pay respect to a soul who fought courageously to bring down hatred and division” the statement further said.

Archbishop Lawrence John Saldanha
Chairperson

Peter Jacob
Executive Secretary

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