

Majlis Perundingan Malaysia Agama Buddha, Kristian, Hindu, Sikh dan Tao

Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism

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MCCBCHST: "PASTORS'S ABDUCTION A WORRYING ESCALATION OF **VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE OF FAITH"**

The Malaysian Consultative Council of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Sikhism and Taoism (MCCBCHST) is deeply concerned by the abduction and continued disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh of Harapan Komuniti, a Christian outreach group that works with society's marginalised communities in Petaling Jaya.

Koh was abducted on a public road in the morning on the 13th of February 2017. A group of masked men in expensive SUVs reportedly forced Koh's car off the road before abducting him, along with his car. To date, he remains missing, with no clear leads from the police investigations. Selangor police have set up a special task force to search for the abducted Pastor, reflecting the seriousness of this case.

The news of Koh's abduction have fanned fears across all religious divides in Malaysian society, as it is unprecedented for a man of faith to be abducted in this way in our peaceful multicultural country. Many of our members regard this abduction as a worrying escalation of violence against people of faith in Malaysia, which may have negative repercussions on the interfaith goodwill and harmony that our country enjoys and is rightfully proud of.

MCCBCHST calls on all Malaysians of all faiths to pray for the safe recovery/return of Pastor Raymond Koh, and for the success of the police task force in their endeavours to swiftly bring to justice the perpetrators of this horrific crime.

We urge all Malaysians of all faiths, whether individuals or institutions, to come together in solidarity with the family of Pastor Raymond to condemn his abduction and pray for his safe recovery/return.

1 March 2017

Ven. Dato' Seri Jit Heng President

Bishop Sebastian Francis Vice-President

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