



# Christian Conference of Asia

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## **Statement on the Illegal Arrest and Detention of Bishop Carlos Morales of the Philippine Independent Church**

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) expresses deep concern on the illegal arrest and detention of Bishop Carlos Morales of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI) who serves in the Diocese of the southern city of Ozamis in Mindanao.

We understand from sources in CCA's member constituencies in the Philippines that a joint military and police unit arrested Bishop Carlo Morales, his wife Maria Teofilina Morales, a companion and their driver at a checkpoint in the village of Gango on May 11, 2017.

We are saddened to hear that Bishop Morales was handcuffed and detained, despite introducing himself as a bishop. It is highly unfortunate that he was accorded with such maltreatment.

We consider that the arrest and detention of a religious and spiritual leader like Bishop Morales is appalling and a violation of human rights. We urge the authorities in the Philippines to release Bishop Morales immediately.

***Mathews George Chunakara***  
***General Secretary, CCA***