

Statement of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) General Secretary on Bombing of Mount Carmel Cathedral in the Philippines

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) condemns the bombing that took place inside and outside the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Barangay Walled City, Jolo, in the Sulu Province of southern Philippines on Sunday morning which killed more than 20 faithful and wounded about 80. Such an act of violence against the worshippers and insulence at a sacred place is an utter disregard for human life and people's right to live in peace.

The CCA is saddened by the reports of fatalities. We pray for the families in grief and speedy recovery of the injured. We express solidarity with the church community in the Apostolic Vicariate of Jolo.

We call on the authorities in the Philippines to bring the perpetrators of this barbaric crime to justice.

With the creation of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the CCA appeals to Christians in the region to be in unity with all peace-loving Muslim and indigenous communities and work together against violent extremism.

We wish and pray that the Jolo blasts will not derail the quest for peace in Mindanao.

May all our religions of peace enlighten us in our pursuit for an optimistic future for the peoples of Mindanao.

May God deliver us from evil and lead us to peace.



Mathews George Chunakara
General Secretary
Christian Conference of Asia