

Dear All,

Greeting and richest blessings from the Diocese of Hyderabad, Church of Pakistan!

I trust and hope in the Lord that you are well and serving the almighty sincerely using all the gifts and skills you have been blessed with. I am writing this email to update you a little about the recent and current situation after the Supreme Court of Pakistan's verdict to release Asia Bibi. Overall the Diocese of Hyderabad and the entire Christian Community of Pakistan was so happy and encouraged about this historical decision but at the same time, we were so concerned about our security as the hard-liner Muslim mobs and Islamic political parties started protesting violently against that decision and according to some sources, they were planning to attack Churches and their properties in order to force the Supreme Court and the Government of Pakistan to reverse that decision. The Government has dealt with these mobs very wisely through signing a peace agreement with them in order to calm them for the time being but straight after that agreement, clearing the blocked roads and restoring peace in the country, the government and the Supreme Court of Pakistan have started taking actions against these mobs and their leadership. Hundreds of the violent protesters have been arrested by the law enforcement agencies to date and the action still continue. It is very encouraging to see that the state has been fully supporting and implementing the Supreme Court's decision through its relevant ministries and law enforcement agencies. The Government's sources has confirmed that Asia Bibi has been released from the prison and she and her family are living in a secure place and being provided sufficient security. There were some rumours that she and her family have been facilitated to move to Netherlands but the Government's officials have denied any such rumours. We at the the Diocese of Hyderabad have been continuously praying for the safety of Asia Bibi and her family as well as her peaceful departure from Pakistan as their lives are under extreme threats. We also request the friends like you and churches around the world to continue remembering her and her family in their prayers until they find a safe place to live their normal life.

We will continue to update you on this whenever any further happens in this regard.

In His service,

Bishop Kaleem John,
Diocese of Hyderabad,
Church of Pakistan.

November 2018