



Congregazione dei Missionari di N.S. de La Salette
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Dear Brethren in Christ!

I write this letter to bring your attention, as we continue **to face the challenging situation of our dear brother, Fr. Patrick Kyaw Lin, MS (Born: 16-03-1976, Ordained: 23-09-2008) who remains in police custody in Myanmar.**

On December 22, 2023, Father Patrick was unjustly arrested at the Aye Thar Yar Check-Point in Shan State. The charges against him—supporting or communicating with illegal armed groups—. He has been incarcerated at the Aye Thar Jail for nearly 8 months and faces the prospect of ten years of imprisonment. Regarding the situation in Myanmar, since last October, 2023, several revolutionary armed groups have been fighting with the military Government in the big Cities.

I want to inform you that the Region of Myanmar has proactively approached the Cardinal of Yangon, seeking his help in this matter. His Eminence Cardinal Charles Maung has personally intervened by sending a request letter to General Min Aung Hlaing. However, our efforts have been met with silence and indifference.

The Region also has appointed advocates to handle the legal aspects of the case. The General Chapter of our Congregation has officially written a letter to the Cardinal of Yangon, expressing our sincere gratitude for his assistance and requesting that he continue his support.

After our General Chapter, I personally had the opportunity to meet with His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, the Pro-Prefect of the Section of the First Evangelization and New Particular Churches at the Dicastery for Evangelization. I informed him of the details of Fr. Patrick's situation, and he graciously offered his support and help. Following Cardinal Tagle's suggestion, I have written to him and to the Vatican Secretary of State, providing them with all the relevant information regarding the issue of Fr. Patrick.

I am pleased to share that on July 8, I received a letter from His Eminence Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, indicating that his office will do its utmost to assist Fr. Patrick, and His office is in close communication with the Apostolic Nunciature in Myanmar to update the situation.

Fr. William Phyo Wai, MS (Regional superior) informed the latest update that, “Brigadier General who is in command of the Eastern Regional Command, Taunggyi, Shan State, has sent an endorsement letter to General Min Aung Hlaing for the release of Fr. Patrick Case” (August 10, 2024). According to Fr. William we need to wait until September to know the result of the intervention of the Brigadier General.

I call upon all of you, dear members, to join us in fervent prayer for Fr. Patrick's swift release and for his good health. Let us also pray for the Region of Myanmar and for peace in the country.

So, I request that, all of you dedicate a day of prayer (before September 19, 2024) in your respective Provinces or Region for Fr. Patrick. May our lady of La Salette intercede and save our brother from this challenging situation.

May our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of La Salette, intercede on our behalf and guide us through this challenging time. Let us entrust ourselves to her maternal care and seek her intercession for the swift resolution of this matter.

In our lady of La Salette,
Fr. Jojohn Chettiyakunnel Mathew, MS
Superior General