



World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Semper reformanda

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To all WARC Member churches and Executive
Committee members

President: Rev. Dr Clifton Kirkpatrick
General Secretary: Rev. Dr Setri Nyomi

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Dear Friends,

On this Pentecost day, we pray that the Holy Spirit's coming will fill and empower you to engage faithfully in the prophetic ministry to which you have been called.

As we celebrate Pentecost, we are aware that our sisters and brothers in two countries have gone through grave difficulties.

Our sisters and brothers in Madagascar are mourning the loss of Rev. Ranaivo Rivoarison who died as a result of gunshot wounds to his chest when a group of Religious leaders were trying to hold a worship service at a military camp on Thursday, May 20. Three others died in that incident, and fifteen were wounded. Several civilians have been detained including a pastor, Rev. Valisoa Rafanonerantsoa. There have been further threats to arrest religious leaders. So as we celebrate Pentecost, our sisters and brothers in Madagascar have found themselves once again in the midst of grief, turmoil and uncertainty. We understand that at the arrest of Pastor Valisoa, he was beaten and his bible was stomped upon by the soldiers. The radio station run by the FJKM has been shut down and its personnel have been detained. We condemn the political actions that have led to this senseless loss of life, curtailing of freedom of expression, and threats to the welfare of all Madagascans – of all religions and denominations. We support the prophetic voices seeking to bring justice and reconciliation in Madagascar today. We ask that you pray for the people of Madagascar, that reconciliation and justice will return. We pray that a just solution to the political crisis will be found. We pray that the churches – Protestant and Roman Catholic – will be faithful to God in their actions to bring peace and reconciliation in Madagascar. Pray for Pastor Rivo's family and the families of others who have been killed or detained.

We continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Thailand. Months of protest and uncertainty that crippled part of the capital, Bangkok and which turned violent several times came to an end this past week. The end did not come without further violence and destruction. We mourn with the people of Thailand for the lives which were lost. We pray that reconciliation will take place, and that a just way forward will be found to address the political crisis that undergirds this violence. We pray that the Churches will continue to play a constructive role for justice and peace for all the people of Thailand.

May the Holy Spirit continue to comfort and guide you.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick
President

Rev. Dr. Setri Nyomi
General Secretary