

**THE CHRISTIAN FEDERATION OF MALAYSIA
PERSEKUTUAN KRISTIAN MALAYSIA**

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**CHURCHES REMINDED TO CONTINUE TO PRAY
FOR PASTOR RAYMOND KOH, OTHERS STILL MISSING
AND THEIR FAMILIES**

How does it feel to be separated from your loved ones? COVID-19 has forced us to experience this pain of separation from family and friends for almost a year now. Some of us have not hugged or seen our loved ones since the pandemic started. We have, however, some measure of comfort in knowing where they are and the assurance that they are safe.

The Koh family had their husband and father snatched away from their lives 48 months' ago. Pastor Raymond Koh disappeared without a trace on 13th February 2017 and for his wife Susanna and their children, a long and painful quest for answers began that day. The Koh family have resorted to various measures to obtain answers about the fate of their loved one, but with no success.

The issue of missing persons is one of human rights. Enforced disappearance is a violation of the human rights of those who go missing and of their families. Establishing the truth of what happened is important and not just to the Koh family but also for the families of Amri Che Mat, Joshua Hilmy and his wife Ruth Sitepu who also vanished and are still missing. Has any action been taken by the Special Task Force which the then Prime Minister announced on 5 April 2019 would be set up following the findings of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) on 3 April 2019 upon the conclusion of its enquiry into the "enforced disappearance" of Pastor Raymond Koh and Amri Che Mat?

Truth finding should be a national undertaking and there must be accountability and justice to provide some relief to the families from their long suffering and also to prevent such acts from happening again.

How we deal with the issue of missing persons defines us as a society. If the end of your story is not known and if everyone gives up trying to find out what happened to you, there is a sense that you did not matter. All of us wish to live in a society where everybody matters – Pastor Raymond Koh and all others who are missing matters.

In faith we do not let go of hope and we believe in the power of prayer. As we mark the fourth anniversary of Pastor Raymond Koh's "enforced disappearance" let us continue to pray that the Koh family and the families of all who are missing will be given great endurance and patience and will remain resilient in Almighty God.

For the next two weekends (February 6 – 7) and (February 13 – 14), we ask all churches to remember and pray for Pastor Raymond, Amri Che Mat, Joshua Hilmy, Ruth Sitepu and their families. May they know that we stand in solidarity with them on their continuous journey of uncertainty.

Signed,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Leow Beng Kim", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim
Chairman and the Executive Committee,
The Christian Federation of Malaysia.