

**Bishop George Rajendran sdb**  
**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**



**BISHOP'S HOUSE**

P.B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.  
Kanyakumari District - 629175  
Tamil Nadu, India.

Ref. No. Priests/GR/39/2015

21 March 2015

Dear and Rev. Fathers,

Greetings in Christ Jesus!

Of late you would be aware of the atrocities committed against weaker sections of the society in our motherland India. Minority Christians are being attacked. What is worse, women, even elderly nuns are not spared.

This only exhibits the loss of quality of conscience of some of our Indian citizens, and the law of the land which fails to prevail without protecting the individual freedom of its citizens. It also manifests the cognizable negligence of some of those in office who need to assure at least the protection basic rights to the daughters and sons of our motherland.

We can never afford to be complacent at the atrocities committed against women, and against members of the body of Christ, to whom we belong. We outright condemn with the strongest of words the violation of human rights, and the infringement of the rights of women, and the brutal acts of violence committed against the members of the body of Christ.

The events call for making every effort to stop these types of violence against women, make reparation for the evil done, bring the perpetrators to justice, bring awareness to our brothers and sisters who are kept in the dark about these events, and motivate those who remain complacent.

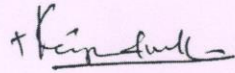
We denounce these atrocities committed in the past days and condemn them. The four catholic dioceses had serious meetings in this regard and decided to come together and register the protest. I request you dear fathers to follow the directives and carry out our protest by organizing the following:

1. In all the parishes on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015, at the end of the Way of the Cross, or after the Holy Qurbana, kindly make a candle lit procession around the church. At the end of the procession please explain to the people about the recent events of sexual violence against women especially about the elderly nun who was attacked at Ranaghat on 14<sup>th</sup> March.
2. On 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014, from 4pm to 5 pm, District Women's Organizations have planned to hold human chain rallies at various places. I request all the faithful of our diocese to participate in these human chain rallies.

3. Further, you are also invited to register your protest by organizing fast, silent processions and the like, at your parish level, and at the region or Forane levels.
4. Kindly send protest letters by registered post with the signatures of your all your parishioners, to the President of India, the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, the Governor of West Bengal, and the Minister for Social Welfare of the Government of West Bengal. You can get the signature of the faithful when they come for the liturgical celebrations on 27<sup>th</sup> March. A model letter of protest, addresses required, and the forms for signatures are attached herewith.

I request you all to fulfil these bounden duties to our society with interest and care.

Yours in Christ Jesus,



**+ George Rajendran SDB**  
Bishop of Thuckalay

