

SUHAKAM REPORT RELEASED:

Pastor Raymond Koh is a victim of an enforced disappearance.

Her Excellency Dato' Aminah Tun Karim Shaharudin  
High Commissioner for Malaysia  
High Commission of Malaysia  
60 Boteler Street  
Ottawa, ON K1H 8Y7  
Canada

Your Excellency,

Malaysia faces a critical moment in its history, where it must choose whether it will be known as a country where its citizenry must fear its own officials or one that enforces the rule of law regardless of a perpetrator's rank or a victim's religious affiliation. I write this letter to express my deep concern over the enforced disappearances of Raymond Koh, Amri Che Mat, and Joshua Hilmy and his wife Ruth Sitepu, and urge you to take concrete and immediate steps to ensure enforcement of the rule of law and justice be handed down for them. The reputation of the Malaysian Government, and the Royal Malaysian Police, which has historically been respected for its competent track record in solving crimes, is at stake.

On 3 April 2019, the SUKHAM released its final reports on its inquiry of the enforced disappearances. In his opening statement the Chairman of the Panel, Dato' Mah Weng Kai read from the report for Raymond Koh: "The panel is of the unanimous view that Pastor Raymond Koh is a victim of an enforced disappearance that took place on 13 February 2017 at about 10.45 am. The direct and circumstantial evidence in the Pastor Raymond Koh's case proves, on a balance of probabilities, that he was abducted by State agents, namely, the Special Branch, Bukit Aman, Kuala Lumpur."

Similarly, the panel found significant mishandling of any investigation by the police in all matters and found that "the public has very little confidence in the Police to abide by the rules and regulations in safeguarding the interests of the public." These cases have become a matter of massive public interest, both in and out of Malaysia. The world is watching to see whether Malaysia will show itself as a leader in freedom and justice or continue down the path of corruption.

We therefore respectfully urge that the Malaysian Government implement the full recommendations of SUKHAM. The resolution of these cases would go a long way in restoring the people's confidence in the police and bringing closure to the victims' families.

### **Recommendations**

Furthermore, we respectfully urge you to take immediate measures to ensure that the rule of law apply to all citizens, regardless of their faith, so that the trust in the Malaysian Royal Police and Government can be restored. We recommend the following actions be taken:

1. We respectfully ask the Home Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, to take immediate measures to ensure that the rule of law apply to all citizens, regardless of their faith.
2. We respectfully ask the Malaysian Government to set up a special task force to re-investigate the disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh as an enforced disappearance case. The special task force should be comprised of independent investigators appointed by the Attorney General who have no earlier connection with the investigation, no connection in past or present with the Special Branch, Bukit Aman, Kuala Lumpur, nor any connection with current or past members of the religious authorities. The special task force should be given full access to all police files and have the authority to compel witnesses. It is only in this nature that the special task force will be able to complete a truly independent and impartial investigation into the enforced disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh.
3. Finally, we ask that you throw the entire weight of the Malaysian Government behind locating and returning Pastor Koh and the other abducted individuals to their families.

This moment in history will determine whether the world and the citizenry of Malaysia can trust their own government to enact justice.

I appreciate your immediate attention to this matter.

Respectfully,