



17th December , 2019.

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY TO THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE OF HONG KONG

The International Community of Diaconic Management (ICDM) have met in Karongi, Rwanda for their 5th International Conference and Annual General Assembly from the November 11-15, 2019 and hereby express their solidarity with the church and people of Hong Kong in their struggle for justice.

Composed of experts in Diaconic Management, the ICDM representing the following countries: Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, Democratic Republic of Kongo, Namibia, South Africa, Cameroon, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Hong Kong, China and Germany; we lament the ongoing police brutality on the innocent citizens of Hong Kong who express their disapproval of China's foreign policy on Hong Kong.

The ICDM as an organisation has five (5) objectives: *Networking; sharing knowledge and professional experiences; mutual support through collegial counselling; fostering contextual diakonia*(to liberate human kind from everything that oppresses, enslaves and distorts the image of God); *care and witness in action*.

It is in the spirit of our latter objectives: ***contextual diakonia, care and witness in action*** ... that we embark on this Solidarity campaign for Compassionate justice: compassion that arises where people are touched and allow themselves to be touched by other people's sufferings. *To Name God*, where we allow ourselves to be used to remove the injustices in the society.¹The citizens of Hong Kong are demanding to be heard.

¹Boesak(2005),*Tenderness of Conscience*. Sun Press Publishers, South Africa .p 238

We have heard the cries of the Hong Kong Church and citizens. The ICDM is aware that :

1. Civil unrest in Hong Kong started as peaceful protests following Hong Kong government's introduction of the proposed extradition bill.
2. The situation has escalated into what Hong Kong citizens may perceive to be an existential threat to their autonomy guaranteed under the Basic Law until 2047.
3. People have been abducted and extradited to mainland China by Chinese police often for political reasons.
4. Clashes between police and protesters has risen into intolerable levels of violence.
5. The excessive use of police force against the human rights of protesters remain a growing concern.
6. An Independent Commission to investigate the brutalities will promote peace.

We remember:

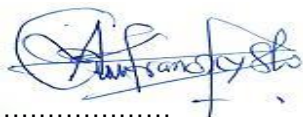
1. Our own countries aspirations for real political autonomy
2. very well the repression and systematic violence of our governments which bred violent reactions from its citizens creating a cycle of bloodshed in which no one benefits.
3. Our own struggles to combat the erosion of civil liberties.

Therefore we resolve to:-

1. Invoke and enact our Baptismal vows to resist evil, oppression and injustice in whatever forms they present themselves.
 - pray for the church and citizens in Hong Kong.
 - Make our members aware of the unfolding political and social situation in Hong Kong.
 - Send messages of support to the church and people of Hong Kong.
 - Condemn all forms of violence, repression and human right abuses meted out to everyone in Hong Kong.

We call on all the member churches of ICDM and UEM to join our Solidarity with WCC campaign until true justice reigns in Hong Kong.

Released on December 17, 2019 by the Board of the International Community of Diaconic Management in Peki, Volta Region of Ghana.



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Rev Dr Francis Yao Amaglo(D.Org & Mgmt)
CHAIRPERSON

