



# Christian Conference of Asia

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## CCA condemns the arrest and detention of Bishop Carlos Morales of the Philippine Independent Church



The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) condemned the illegal arrest and detention of the Bishop of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (Philippine Independent Church) – IFI, Bishop Carlos Morales on Thursday, 11 May 2017.

Bishop Morales, his wife Maria Teofilina Morales, driver Sadome Dalid and a companion were arrested at a checkpoint while travelling by car in the village of Gango in Ozamis City, Philippines.

“The Christian Conference of Asia considers the illegal arrest and detention of a religious and spiritual leader like Bishop Morales appalling and a violation of human rights,” the General Secretary of the CCA, Dr. Mathews George Chunakara said in a statement. He further urged the immediate release of Bishop Morales and his companions.

“It is unfortunate that Bishop Morales has been accorded with such maltreatment. Despite introducing himself as a bishop, he was illegally arrested, handcuffed and detained in a crowded holding cell in the city’s police station.”

The bishop is facing charges of “harbouring a Most Wanted person”, who was travelling with the bishop in his car and is an alleged member of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

While condemning the arrest and detention of Bishop Morales, Bishop Antonio Ablon of the nearby Pagadian Diocese of the IFI said that the accusation of the police against Bishop Morales was baseless. He stated that as a religious leader, the bishop has an obligation to provide protection or sanctuary to any person who is in distress or politically persecuted. [Read More...](#)