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WCRC Statement of concern on the Malaysian situation

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Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay

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It has come to our attention that Christians have come under specific attack in recent months especially on account of the use of "Allah" in Bibles. An example of this kind of attack is how Malay and Iban Bibles were seized in the State of Selangor. This goes against any spirit of freedom of worship.

We affirm that any action that compromises freedom of religion and freedom of conscience is an expression of injustice. In that sense, the October 2013 Court of Appeal ruling is problematic and can only serve to escalate conflict and even violence. It is this that we in the World Communion of Reformed Churches want to point out. We pray for wisdom for both executive, legislative and judicial authorities in Malaysia to act in a manner that brings peace and harmony to all the peoples of Malaysia.

We point out that there are many countries in the world in which Christians and Muslims use the word "Allah" for God without any conflicts. As an organisation that has more than 80 million members, operating in 108 countries, the World Communion of Reformed Churches is very much aware of the values that can be gained in Malaysian Christians and Muslims embracing norms and practices that will make for better peaceful co-existence.

This is the spirit in which we urge all to address the issue of all who choose to use "Allah" as the word for God.

Meanwhile the World Communion of reformed Churches continues to stand by our member churches, and we pray for wisdom for all concerned.

Sincerely yours,

Setri Nyomi (Rev. Dr.)
General Secretary