



National Council of Churches of Singapore

新加坡基督教會協會

தேசிய தின நாளர் நன்றி நவீனத்தல்

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NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, SINGAPORE

STATEMENT ON ARRESTS OF 27 RADICALISED BANGLADESHI NATIONALS UNDER THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT

The National Council of Churches is deeply concerned to receive news of the repatriation of 27 radicalised Bangladeshi nationals who were working in the local construction industry.

NCCS applauds the vigilance and decisive action of the government in dealing with the persons concerned. Extremist violence is a threat that confronts every single Singaporean.

The Council hopes that in this current situation, marked by serious security challenges posed by the continuing threat of terrorism, Singaporeans will stand in solidarity with one another and especially with the members of our Muslim community, the vast majority of whom reject extremist violence. Religious extremism that leads to social conflict and harm can happen in any religion. This is especially so in a world where truth-claims are in flux and definitive interpretations of one's faith in toto are contested.

The mainstream leadership of the Muslim community in Singapore have our support and understanding. Minister K Shanmugam's speech at the SRP Conference on 19 January 2016, is most timely, especially his highlighting of the four threats in Singapore consequent upon the spread of religious extremism. The NCCS remains committed to playing its part to overcome all four threats, which also includes overcoming the threat of Islamophobia.

The threat of terrorism must not be allowed to destroy the trust that we in Singapore have for each other nor disrupt the religious and social harmony that the Government and religious leaders have worked so hard to build.

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