

Vatican, 30 March, 2020

Dear Sikh Friends,

Terrorist attack on Sikh worshippers at the Har Rai Sahib Gurdwara, Kabul, Afghanistan on 25 March 2020 is a dastardly deed that deeply saddens the entire human family. In particular, it has caused much sorrow to the worldwide Sikh community as many lives have been lost in this senseless act of violence. We express our sincere condolences to the families who have lost their loved ones; so also, we pray for all the deceased, and for the speedy recovery of the injured. In this hour of grief, moreover, we express our fraternal solicitude and spiritual closeness to all of you, wherever you are.

While invoking God's compassion and consolation for all who have been affected by this tragedy, we condemn the attack against innocent people in the most unambiguous and strongest terms since it is a crime against humanity and against all noble values we all uphold. "Violence promoted and carried out in the name of religion can only discredit itself" (Pope Francis, Address to Participants in the Conference on *Violence committed in the name of Religion*, Clementine Hall, 2 February, 2018).

May this moment of deep sorrow as well as fraternal solidarity help us stand united, with greater commitment than ever, to protect the sanctity of human life always and everywhere.

Yours Sincerely,

Cardinal Miguel ÁngelAyusoGuixot, MCCJ

President