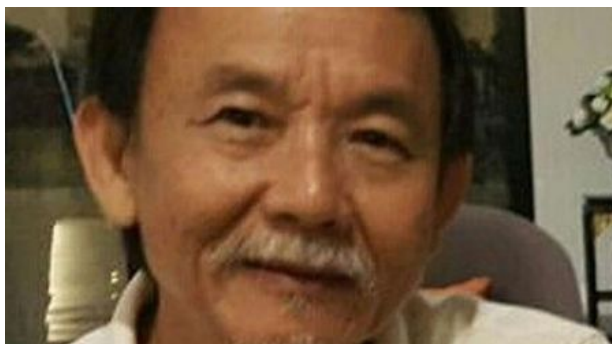


## **Jubilee Campaign Joins Global Calls for the Government of Malaysia to Release Information on Pastor Raymond Koh's Whereabouts on the Anniversary of His Abduction.**

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On February 13, 2017, in broad daylight, three black SUVs cornered Pastor Raymond Koh on the road and several masked men forced him out of his car where he was moved to another vehicle and driven away. The incident, captured on CCTV, showed signs of being a highly orchestrated and pre-planned operation.

Today marks four years since his abduction.



**WASHINGTON DC**— Jubilee Campaign and other NGOs in DC are calling on the government of Malaysia to release information about his whereabouts – noting that it has been “four years with no news.” Earlier Jubilee Campaign submitted a letter together with Open Doors USA and Set My People Free to the International Religious Freedom or Belief Alliance calling on them to flag Pastor Raymond’s case.

While Malaysia has not ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance or the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights they are party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that Malaysia has a responsibility under Article 9(4) to “provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family,” where such separation results from any action

initiated by a State Party.

An independent investigation was conducted by the national Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, SUHAKAM, in 2019, which found state agents from the Special Branch of the police responsible for the abduction of Christian pastor Raymond Koh and Shi'a convert, Amri Che Mat. Not until the release of this investigation did the Malaysian authorities form the Special Task Force (STP) to investigate the enforced disappearance of Pastor Raymond Koh. The impartiality of the STP has been criticized as well since three members had ties to the Department of Islamic Development Malaysia (JAKIM), a federal agency that oversees the nation's religious affairs.

The letter also highlights the enforced disappearance in 2016, of ex-Muslim Pastor Joshua Hilmy and his wife Ruth Sitepu, which the Human Rights Commission initiated an investigation into last year.

It is important to note that these enforced abductions are taking place in an increasingly hostile environment towards Christians and other non-Muslims in Malaysia. Sharia law and state criminal laws discriminate and penalize the propagation of religious doctrines other than Sunni-Islam publicly, with a maximum penalty of a fine of RM 3,000, or two years' imprisonment, or both. This has placed restriction on the access to Bibles in the Malay language. The government or state-level Shari'ah courts can also force individuals into detention-like camps known as 'Faith Purification Centers' and/or prosecute them for apostasy, if they believe they have strayed from Sunni Islam, and punish them with prison terms or fines. In 2017 the Malaysian federal government determined atheism to be unconstitutional and certain states have the death penalty for apostasy, though not enforced. This makes the enforced disappearance of Amri Che Mat and Joshua Hilmy, both ex-Muslims, even more concerning.

The letter calls on Prime Minister to:

- Release information about the whereabouts and situation of Pastor Raymond Koh and the other victims of enforced disappearance for the sake of the families and the children.
- Grant the families the right to know the truth about the whereabouts of their father and husband and provide remedies to the families
- Ensure the impartiality of the Special Task Force.
- Clarify and separate the jurisdictions of the religious authorities and the Royal Malaysia Police.
- Ensure Malaysia respect freedom of religion as a fundamental human right without discrimination - recognising the freedom to adopt or leave a religion or belief. Repeal Malaysian court's practice of criminalizing apostasy, including their practice of placing adults into re-education facilities against their will.
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Solidarity with Susanna Liew (Pastor Raymond Koh's wife) can be found globally:



## SWEDEN

In Stockholm, [Open Doors Sweden](#) delivered a petition to the Embassy of Malaysia calling for additional information on Pastor Raymond Koh's case.

In Gothenburg, Set My People Free is organising a manifestation and [exhibition](#) for Pastor Raymond Koh and other victims of enforced disappearance in Malaysia.

## Malaysia - Reminder to Pray

The Archbishop Julian Leow Beng Kim sent out a letter calling for prayer for Pastor Raymond Koh, Amri Che Mat, Joseph Hilmy, Ruth Sitepu and their families.

[Read the letter here](#)

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6<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### CHURCHES REMINDED TO CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR PASTOR RAYMOND KOH, OTHERS STILL MISSING AND THEIR FAMILIES

How does it feel to be separated from your loved ones? COVID-19 has forced us to experience this pain of separation from family and friends for almost a year now. Some of us have not hugged or seen our loved ones since the pandemic started. We have, however, some measure of comfort in knowing where they are and the assurance that they are safe.

The Koh family had their husband and father snatched away from their lives 48 months ago. Pastor Raymond Koh disappeared without a trace on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and for his wife Susanna and their children, a long and painful quest for answers began that day. The Koh family have resorted to various measures to obtain answers about the fate of their loved one, but with no success.

The issue of missing persons is one of human rights. Enforced disappearance is a violation of the human rights of those who go missing and of their families. Establishing the truth of what happened is important and not just to the Koh family but also for the families of Amri Che Mat, Joshua Hilmy and his wife Ruth Sitepu who also vanished and are still missing. Has any action been taken by the Special Task Force which the then Prime Minister announced on 5 April 2019 would be set up following the findings of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (Suhakam) on 3 April 2019 upon the conclusion of its enquiry into the "enforced disappearance" of Pastor Raymond Koh and Amri Che Mat?

Truth finding should be a national undertaking and there must be accountability and justice to provide some relief to the families from their long suffering and also to prevent such acts from happening again.

How we deal with the issue of missing persons defines us as a society. If the end of your story is not known and if everyone gives up trying to find out what happened to you, there is a sense that you did not matter. All of us wish to live in a society where everybody matters – Pastor Raymond Koh and all others who are missing matter.

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A screenshot of a tweet from USCIRF (@USCIRF) dated Feb 5. The tweet text says: "On Feb. 7 @ 7:00am EST, USCIRF Chair @g\_manchin will provide remarks for a webinar on human rights and the release of abducted religious prisoner of conscience Raymond Koh." Below the text, it says "The event will be livestreamed here:" followed by a video player thumbnail. The thumbnail shows a webinar titled "The Raymond Koh, 4 Years On..." with a central image of Raymond Koh and several smaller circular portraits of other participants. The text on the thumbnail includes "RAYMOND KOH 4 YEARS ON.. WEBINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS Sunday, 7 February 2021 8.00pm - 9.30pm". At the bottom of the tweet, it says "The Raymond Koh, 4 Years On ... The Raymond Koh, 4 Years On.. event will be streamed live on the following platforms: YouTube @ https://Tv.ArchKL.org Facebook Page ... youtube.com".

## USA - USCIRF

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom also flagged Pastor Raymond Koh's case.

## Spain



**Puertas Abiertas ES** @PAbiertasEspana · 6h

El 13 de febrero de 2017, el pastor **Raymond Koh** fue secuestrado.

En el cuarto aniversario de su secuestro, este sábado, a las 12:00, publicaremos publicamos una entrevista con su esposa y sus hijas: ¿tendrán aún esperanza?

¡No te lo pierdas!

[#RaymondKoh](#)



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