

## **Bali Bombing - Letter from Bishop K. Suyaga Ayub, Protestant Christian Church in Bali**

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Rev. John Barr  
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Uniting Church in Australia National Assembly  
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October 14, 2002

**Dear Rev. Barr,**

May God's peace and grace be with you.

The bomb explosion in Legian, Kuta Bali on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at 11.15 PM was very strong and terrifying. It was heard in a radius of more than 10 kms. The explosion exactly happened in Legian Kelod Kuta more or less 2 kms South of Dhyana Pura Hotel, a place, which is filled up with tourists every night. The bomb was put in a car, which just in front of Sari Club.

The explosion made a hole of 6 meters wide and 1 meter deep. The strength of the explosion also made concrete of buildings around it (150 meters from explosion center) fall all over and leaving the iron. It can be imagined the impact toward people around it. They were completely damaged and even could not be identified. Until this morning it was reported that 184 people were dead and more than 300 people injured. Most victims are Australian and the rest are English, German etc.

Probably, those who planted the bomb were expressly directing the target at the international community because at the same time a smaller bomb exploded near American Consulate in Renon Denpasar. Fortunately there were no victims in this explosion.

As we know, Bali is considered a prominent tourist destination in Indonesia. Also it is known as the safest tourist destination in Indonesia, it has a beautiful culture and friendly people. And almost all of the 3 million people in Bali depend on the tourist industry. With this bombing action we can imagine what it will be like for Bali and its people in the future and also Indonesia in general. Most people will lose their jobs and business. The Bali Church and its members, as part of Bali society, will also receive a negative impact from this action.

But more than this, the terrorist action in Bali is considered as problem of all countries in this world. It is a challenge for all of us so we need to unite to face the challenge. The terrible thing could happen everywhere in this world as long as people are not afraid of God but we cannot let the terrorists destroy the peace that God has given to this world.

As a believer, I have been trying for months in order that people of this country, Indonesia, become afraid of God. This is so it will be not so easy to burn, to kill, to do corruption and such evil things. I have asked for God's righteousness to save Indonesia. In my prayers I was struggling that God's action and righteousness could make people happy. At the same time it could become as sadness and even disaster as Israel had experienced it during their exile in Babel and Jesus had to carry His cross.

After the explosion happened in front of my eyes and the suffering of those innocent victims, I ask all people in Indonesia to repent, be honest, always do the right thing and give respect one another. For us, this temptation is considered as a warning from God for all people to repent. We are now sharing this mission with other churches, other religions, and government.

Starting from yesterday we have mobilized church doctors and medics to help bomb victims in hospital. They helped medical matters and also for translation. We need much blood type A, B and O rhesus negative. We were able to prepare blood type A and B but we have difficulty in preparing O rhesus negative. But were grateful that medics from Australia and their friends were willing to give their blood. Church members spontaneously visited those victims in the hospital and brought some fruits, clothes etc. Most victims have been evacuated to their own countries. Until this afternoon only few of them still did some treatment in hospital. The Men's Fellowship of the Bali Church is always ready to give their help.

Herewith, on behalf of the Bali Church I would like to express my deep sympathy and condolence for families of all victims of the bombing action in Legian Bali. I am grateful for all sympathy that has been sent to us by phone, fax or e-mail. We truly need your prayers and support to face the negative impact of the bomb explosion in Bali. We thanks God that none of our church members became as victim of the explosion. Until today the doer of bombing incidents has not captured yet. And we are praying for this. With the bombing in Bali I hope Indonesia will be more serious to fight against terrorism.

That's all news from Bali. May God richly bless you in your services. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon and I send you my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Bishop K. Suyaga Ayub  
Protestant Christian Church in Bali