

Urgent prayer request

LEFC persecutes Christian Church in Sri Lanka



Pastor Mahendran with German Brothers at the police station, in the middle LEFC representatives Fernando and Kallidasa accusing them

We just came back from a recent trip to Sri Lanka to visit our partner churches and encourage them in their ministry.

On Sunday August 20th 2023 we had a sad experience. We came to see the believers of Grace Gospel Church in Veeramanagar and to participate in the Church meeting. Unexpectedly we were asked to come to the local police station because somebody had made a complaint against us.

When we came to the police station we were surprised that suddenly 2 men also entered the room who were introduced as those who had made the complaint against us. These men were Fernando, the Secretary of LEFC (Lanka Evangelical Fellowship of Churches) who is the main representative of Jeyakanth in Sri Lanka, and Kallidasa, a local minister of LEFC in Veeramanagar.

In front of the police officer Fernando accused us we had come to Veeramanagar church without asking permission from LEFC. We explained that we are working with this local church since 20 years and we are not working with an organization so we don't need to ask LEFC if we come to the local church in Veeramanagar. Fernando then said this building belongs to LEFC but we explained that our church had funded this building for the use of the local congregation so it does not belong to LEFC.

The police officer then said that in their recent complaint LEFC did not mention the building but they had made another accusation: Foreigners had come and spread Christian religion in the village illegally because they came on tourist visa and they had distributed food parcels in order to drag village people to their side.

We explained that all three accusations were wrong.

First we did not spread Christian religion in the village but only preached the word of God in the church and did not leave the church ground. Second we followed the Visa instructions and did none of the prohibited activities. Third we did not distribute any food parcels.

We were glad that the police officer could see that their claims were false. He apologized to us and said it was his duty to inquire. We thanked God that he helped us but we left the police station with great sadness that Jeyakanth and his men are fighting against Christians in such an evil way, by that bringing shame to the name of Christ in front of non-believers.

Please pray for the churches who are persecuted by their own brothers. Please pray that the Lord may open their eyes to understand how wicked such actions are and to stop the persecution of bible-believing local churches. We are back in Germany, but our brothers have to face such attacks since months and only in that particular week Pastor Mahendran had to go 5 times to police and local authorities because of the ongoing attacks of LEFC.

Johann Braun

Ruben Gordon

Tobias Henschel