



12 January 2009

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Rev. Tanzeel Zafar, Diocese of Peshawar (NWFP), Church of Pakistan.**

We wish to thank God Almighty that last evening (Sunday 11 January 2009) at about 8.00 p.m., the above named Priest was thrown by his abductors at the gates of St. John's Cathedral Church, 1-Sir Syed Road, Peshawar Cantt: He was immediately rushed to Lady Reading Hospital and given emergency treatment. He is deeply traumatized and has been severely beaten.

It is still not known who is abductors were but the case is being investigated. He was later on moved to Mission Hospital in Dabgari Gardens. The Bishop of Peshawar (NWFP) Munawar Rumalshah wishes to express his deep gratitude to all concerned who helped to secure the release of the Rev. Tanzeel Zafar. He especially wishes to thank Mr. Shahbaz Bhatrti, Federal Minister for Minority Affairs, Mr. Safwat Ghayur, CCPO, Mr. Abdul Qadir, S.P. Cantt: and all their colleagues including the SHOs of Police Station West Cantt: and Pishtakhara. The Police service has been absolutely marvelous in resending this case.

The Bishop further noted with sadness that kidnapping in our area goes unabated. And it really affects the whole community especially when religious leaders are abducted. He prayed that such incidents may be stopped and that religious tolerance and harmony may be realized amongst all people. He also wishes to thank the support of his whole Christian community both of its religious and political leaders especially the two Christian MPAs of NWFP namely Mr. Prince Javed and Mr. Asif Bhatti. He finally prayed for the healing and well-being of the Rev. Tanzeel Zafar and his family and the Christian people of Charsadda, Shabqadar and Mardan whom he has been serving so faithfully.

Communication Desk.  
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