

Foreign Minister Steinmeier: murder of Jesuit priest in Syria fills us with sorrow

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08.04.2014 - Press release 

Foreign Minister Steinmeier: murder of Jesuit priest in Syria fills us with sorrow

Foreign Minister Steinmeier issued the following statement today in response to the murder of Father Frans van der Lugt in Syria:

Info

The murder of Father Frans van der Lugt fills us with great sorrow. Father Frans was selflessly committed to working for the people of Homs, not wanting to leave them even in the most difficult of circumstances.

It is with profound concern that we observe the increasing degree to which religious minorities, including Christians, are being targeted by Islamist terrorists.

In this context, we call for the immediate release of representatives of Christian churches who have been abducted, among them Jesuit priest Father Paolo Dall'Oglio, Syrian-Orthodox Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim and Greek-Orthodox Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi.

Background information:

Father Frans van der Lugt had represented the Jesuit order in Syria for five decades. He worked primarily in the field of education and supported numerous projects for disabled people. When he was killed, he was working in the city of Homs, which is under siege from the Assad regime. It is unclear what led to his being killed yesterday.

Father van der Lugt's fellow Jesuit priest Father Paolo Dall'Oglio was abducted in July 2013. His fate remains unknown. Metropolitan Mar Gregorios Yohanna Ibrahim of the Syrian-Orthodox Church and Metropolitan Boulos Yazigi of the Greek-Orthodox Church, both of them based in Aleppo, were abducted almost a year ago.

Keywords

Syrian Arab Republic →