



Current Issues in Prayer

July 2019

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray:
That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.



Getting started:

Choose a comfortable place. Try to recollect yourself in the presence of God and thank Him for your surroundings, for the vastness of God's creation and the way we are immersed in his work.



Short story:

The small indigenous communities of Orang Asli in Malaysia have been left behind in many ways. According to a recent UN report, their "social, economic and cultural rights have been threatened by the government". A number of unfavourable laws have made the Orang Asli poorer, pushing them to the margins of society. Adequate healthcare, water and sanitation in the jungle villages are not secured and maintained by the government. The schools in their villages were shut down, forcing the children to go to boarding schools miles away from home. Their farming practices of 'controlled field burning' have been outlawed by authorities for the air pollution they generate. Villagers defend these traditional methods that fertilise the fields and restore diversity. Ironically, the same authorities do not apply these laws to the factories within the same district that have poisoned the river waters and toxified the air. Nor is the government heeding the protests of Orang Asli communities against the clearing of vast jungle land that is making way for rubber plantations.



The plight of the Orang Asli has steadily gained attention and many international civil rights groups have harshly criticised the Malaysian government for decades of neglect. Their activism is against the injustices that have prevailed against these vulnerable communities.



Time to reflect:

The story of the Orang Asli is happening very far away from where I am. But I reflect on the different injustices happening closer to me. How easy it is for people in power to leave behind those who are vulnerable? Who will stand up for the poor, the needy and those who are at the margins of society?



Let us pray:

Dear Lord, enlighten those who are in power and those who administer justice to work with full integrity at protecting the rights of the vulnerable. Grant them the strength and inspiration when faced with temptation and threat.



Inspiration:

The world suffers a lot. Not because of the violence of bad people, but because of the silence of good people.

Anonymous



Hands on:

I learn more about injustices happening around the world. I use the the social media to raise awareness and support in the best way I can. Signing a petition or forwarding ideas can be a way of advocating in favour of justice.