## **NEWS**

NATIONAL FRATERNITY SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN THE UNITED STATES

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## U.S. Secular Franciscan Order Condemns Persecution in Pakistan

Responding to reports of religious persecution in Pakistan, the U.S. Secular Franciscan Order condemned "the violence against the people of Pakistan" during its national gathering Oct. 24 near Albuquerque, NM.

The national body, representing 14,500 Secular Franciscans across the United States, unanimously approved a statement to be delivered to the ambassador of Pakistan in Washington, D.C.

"We exhort you to intervene and seek an immediate and peaceful resolution that includes religious tolerance and freedom to worship, as well as respect for all sacred texts," the statement says. "Religious tolerance should be a value for all societies. For our part, we will stay abreast of the situation and hold in prayer all of the people of Pakistan."

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