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Serious Security Concerns Affecting H.F. Schools in Pakistan

This week, the following messages have been received by Sr. Kumudinie Dassanayake, General Leadership Team member.

Message 1

Just to share some news. Yesterday so many police including the S.H.O. (Station House Officer or Police Inspector) came to visit the school specially to see to the security measures. They went round and asked us to

- Have two guards. One on the roof of the guardroom
- Put the emergency alarm.
- Raise the four walls of the guardroom so that the guard will not be too exposed and he could have a good view of the whole area.
- Install more CCTV cameras and to have one to see the road
- have a big pump gun
- I.D. for all the children
- Have a checking instrument.
- Put rolled barbed wire all along the walls.

We are given just one week to have all these ready if not they will seal the school. I asked for a little more time but they said the order is from the highest authority and they can give only one week and no more. They were satisfied for the moment with the security that we have; but insisted that we complete the rest as well. Even in Chak 6 they inspected every place and asked the Sisters to make the walls higher. So we need to have little fortresses everywhere. Now we need to tap some sources to get some funds to complete these requirements.

No assemblies and no functions at all. Last night the government announced holidays for all the schools from the 26th - 31st instant due to severe cold. So we have holidays but the teachers are in to complete their work and to prepare for the annual examination. Do keep us in your prayer.

Thresa Perera, Okara



Message 2

Thanks a lot for your loving support and for sending the prayer. Actually it is a very tense Situation: More than the cold, the concern is the safety of the children. So the schools are closed mainly for security reasons. Now the bricks are also gone up in price. We have to make use of the grant we received for furniture to cover this immediate need. It is almost three lakhs.. Do keep us in your prayer.

We heard that 5 schools from Okara are targeted schools and ours (Okara) is one and Chak 6 is another. The rest are mission schools. So we need to be very careful. Yes, I shall share the psalm you sent me with everyone. Do pray for the safety of all the children. I know you are sharing with Sr. Ana Maria. I shall write to her also.

Thresa Perera, Okara

Message 3

Hope you are keeping well.

Just want to share that Pakistan is having lot of problems regarding security. In all the schools, they are asking to fulfill lot of requirements. Last night they sealed Gojra school. Many places are getting threats especially the schools.

Angelina Sohan Delegation leader, Gojra- Pakistan



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