News 24 November 2026 | English article

Latest: Eritrean Catholic Bishops Plead for Peace in Horn of Africa in Seek Peace and Pursue It Letter

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Seek Peace and Pursue It"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

Catholic bishops in Eritrea have urged national leaders and international organisations to reject attempts to impose their will by force and to work for peace in the Horn of Africa by resolving disputes through dialogue. In a pastoral statement issued in Asmara on Friday 20 November 2026, titled "Seek Peace and Pursue It" from Psalm 34, the Council of Catholic Hierarchs of Eritrea said leaders have an "inescapable responsibility" to protect lives, help people live in safety, and "lay a firm foundation for peace, peaceful coexistence and good neighbourliness." The bishops spoke as fears grow of a wider conflict amid Ethiopia-Eritrea border clashes and severed diplomatic ties.

Think of a mother in a village near the border, listening to the radio for news she dreads. She has heard the words "border clashes" before, and she knows what they can mean for her children. The bishops of Eritrea were thinking of her when they wrote their letter - and they said so. Their concern, they wrote, is particular for mothers and children, the ones who pay first and most when the guns start. "Seek Peace and Pursue It" is not a slogan for them. It is a plea from shepherds who can see the storm gathering over their flocks.

The bishops warned that "these wars and rumours of wars wound every family and every sector of society in manifold ways." That phrase - wars and rumours of wars - comes from the Gospel, and the bishops chose it deliberately. Rumours alone are enough to wound a family: the fear, the sleepless nights, the quiet packing of bags, the children asking questions no parent can answer. War does not have to arrive to do its damage. The waiting does half the work.

Their answer to that fear is blunt and simple: "Disputes must be resolved through dialogue and discussion conducted in peace and by peaceful means." There is no hedging in that sentence. The bishops are not asking leaders to consider dialogue, or to explore it, or to keep it as an option. They are insisting that dialogue is the only way - that force is not a solution but a failure, and that imposing one's will on a neighbour is a road that ends in grief for everyone.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1114.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) Un Paso por mi Familia 2026: miles de católicos marchan en República Dominicana contra los feminicidios
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1115.html

(Portuguese) 34ª Marcha para Jesus reúne fiéis em caminhada de fé pelas ruas de Macapá
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1116.html

(Hindi) Odishaa Ke Koraaputa Men Bhiira Ke Hamale Ke Agale Dina Prashaasana Ne Charcha Ko Buladojara Se Giraayaa
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/hi/news-1117.html