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121,000 Sign Petition to Cancel Netflix's The Body

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"- And the show they want gone is sitting at No. 2 In the United States. The CitizenGO petition calls the eight-episode drama"

(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

More than 121,000 people have signed a petition demanding Netflix cancel its new series "The Body" - and the show they want gone is sitting at No. 2 In the United States. The CitizenGO petition calls the eight-episode drama "blasphemous" and "anti-Christian", saying it mocks the Catholic faith with a story about schoolgirls performing a mock satanic ritual. Netflix has not issued a public response, and it has given no sign it will remove the show.

The series premiered worldwide on November 11. It follows a group of Catholic schoolgirls on a dance team at an all-girls school in 2004, whose Halloween initiation - a mock sacrifice in which they jokingly offer their classmate Grace as a virgin sacrifice to the Devil - goes wrong. Grace, played by Sofia Wylie, falls into a coma. The other girls begin experiencing what they describe as prophetic visions, and mass hysteria spreads through their school and their community.

Netflix The Body Petition: 121,000 Signatures And Counting

The petition was launched on November 5, six days before the series even premiered, and it is addressed to Peter Rice, Netflix's chief content officer. It passed 84,000 signatures by November 13, crossed 100,000 by November 18, and stood above 121,000 by Thursday, according to the Christian Post. A seperate petition on LifePetitions, run by LifeSiteNews, is addressed to Netflix co-CEOs Ted Sarandos and Greg Peters.

The campaigners' objections go beyond the ritual scene itself. They point to the show's promotional tagline, "They pray hard and sin harder", and to a promotional image released around All Saints' Day that showed the characters dressed as mock saints - one wearing a crown of thorns.

The petition's letter to Rice reads, in part: "Christian parents teach their daughters to pray. This show teaches them that prayer leads to the devil."

"Netflix would never do this to Muslim or Hindu families. It is spending the money Christian families pay every month on contempt for their faith."

That last line is the one stinging hardest with Christian parents - the idea that their own subscriptions are paying for a show that turns their daughters' prayers into a horror story. The petition's own history makes the same point in blunter terms: "First Netflix mocked Jesus Christ Himself in the First Temptation of Christ. Then it sexualized eleven-year-old girls in Cuties. Now it has come for Christian schoolgirls."

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment a complaint withdrawn under threat -- 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?

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