

*Human Rights Council – 28<sup>th</sup> session*

*Item 3 – General debate Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development*

*Speaker: Albert Hengelaar*

*Friday 13 March 2015*

Mr. President,

Former High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillai has stated that one can have rule of law without human rights. How is this possible? In all likelihood this will happen when minority rights are flouted. The World Evangelical Alliance is concerned by the high number of countries around the world where the human rights of minorities are threatened.

We notice that this problem has no cultural borders. And it has no institutional borders. Governments, courts and crowds alike can deny rights to minorities. Human rights institutions need to question this phenomenon appearing across cultures and institutions. Those whom they have to fear least are taken hostage. For what reason? It is like this: Majorities unite against a common enemy. The social mechanism of scapegoating is at work. Others need to suffer to boost the unity and confidence of the rest.

That is why the treatment of minorities is the litmus test for rule of law. There will be no freedom if minorities are robbed of their legal rights. The interests of the majority should not be boosted at the expense of the minorities. Otherwise there will be a major threat to human rights.

We thank you Mr. President