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PAKISTAN RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE LEADER TO SPEAK IN SF
URI's Father James Channan is a pioneer of Muslim-Christian dialogue in Pakistan

San Francisco, CA May 27, 2011 – Father James Channan, a leading advocate of interfaith dialogue and religious tolerance in Pakistan, will be visiting San Francisco next month to talk about his work building bridges among faiths in a dangerously divisive society.

A regional coordinator for San Francisco-based [United Religions Initiative \(URI\)](#), the world's largest grassroots interfaith organization, Father Channan leads a network of 44 community groups around the country working on the ground to promote religious freedom, prevent religiously motivated violence and address underlying causes of conflict. He is also director of a new Peace Center in Lahore.

When he isn't advising Pakistan's government on interreligious issues or lecturing on interfaith peacebuilding worldwide, he is in churches, mosques, villages and community centers around the country trying to heal the wounds of sectarian violence that have left Pakistan's minorities shaken and distrustful.

On Wednesday, June 8 at 6pm, Father Channan will participate in a panel discussion, [“Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Pakistan,”](#) at the San Francisco State University Downtown campus. Joining him on the panel will be Anasuya Sengupta, Regional Program Director for Asia/Oceania for the [Global Fund for Women](#), and Sabahat Rafiq, a lecturer on politics and religion in Pakistan.

Father Channan will also say Mass at St. Dominic's Catholic Church on Sunday, June 5 at 11:30am, and will appear on KQED radio's [Forum with Michael Krasny](#) on June 7 at 10am.

Event details

Event: [“Human Rights and Religious Freedom in Pakistan”](#)
Date/Time: June 8, 2011, 6pm; reception to follow

Location: San Francisco State University Downtown Campus
835 Market Street, 6th Floor, Rm. 609

Tickets: Free; email jfoley@uri.org

Event: Sunday Mass

Date/Time: June 5, 2011; 11:30am

Location: St. Dominic's Catholic Church
2390 Bush Street
San Francisco

About URI:

URI is a global network of over 500 grassroots organizations, called Cooperation Circles, dedicated to peace and justice through interfaith and cross-cultural cooperation. Its nearly half a million members are overcoming distrust and hostility every day for the good of their communities—mediating religiously motivated conflict; building schools, orphanages and health clinics; campaigning for citizenship rights and more in 78 countries. They touch the lives of an estimated 2.5 million people.

Visit www.uri.org for information on URI's work in Africa; Asia; Europe; Latin America and the Caribbean; Middle East and North Africa; North America; and Southeast Asia and the Pacific.