

January 29, 2024

The Honorable Päivi Räsänen, M.D.
Member of Parliament
Parliament of Finland
FIN-00102 EDUSKUNTA
Finland

The Reverend Dr. Juhana Pohjola
Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland
FIN-00180 Helsinki
Finland

To the Honorable Päivi Räsänen, M.D. and the Reverend Dr. Juhana Pohjola,

We have been following your case since 2019 and on behalf of the millions of Americans who support freedom of speech and freedom of religion, we write to show our support for you in these trying times and to offer our prayers and encouragement.

Once again you face unjust charges. For almost half a decade, you have confronted targeted legal harassment for simply living out your Christian faith, the direct result of not just political persecution but also spiritual persecution. Now, despite twice being unanimously declared not guilty at the Helsinki District Court and the Helsinki Court of Appeals, the prosecutor has filed another appeal, potentially forcing a third trial at Finland's Supreme Court.

We are watching and we are praying for you. The world is watching, and the world is praying for you. As you once again prepare to stand trial for freedom of speech and freedom of religion, know that you do not stand alone. Rather, each one of us stands alongside you, praying and encouraging you along the way.

Sincerely,

Paul Teller
Executive Director
Advancing American Freedom

Frank Wolf
Former Member
U.S. Congress

Ambassador Sam Brownback
Co-Chair
International Religious Freedom Summit

Dr. Gregory P. Seltz
Executive Director
The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

Eric Patterson
President
Religious Freedom Institute

Tony Perkins
President & Former Chair
Family Research Council & USCIRF

Ken Blackwell
Former U.S. Ambassador
United Nations Human Rights Commission

Maureen Blum
Executive Director
Catholics Count

Nina Shea
Senior Scholar and Director
Center for Religious Freedom
Hudson Institute

Douglas D. Punke
Senior Pastor
Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fort Wayne, IN

Bunni Pounds
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Christians Engaged

Rabbi Yaakov Menken
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Dran Reese
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Salt and Light Council

Saulius "Saul" Anuzis
President
60 Plus Association

John Suarez
Executive Director
Center for a Free Cuba

James L. Martin
Founder/Chairman
60 Plus Association

Nancy Schulze
National Strategic Director
Physicians for Reform