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title: Need to take steps to ensure early release of father Tom Ushunnalil.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, I would like to raise an important matter. Fr. Tom Ushunnalil, a native of Pala in Kottayam district and Member of Pala Diocese, the Syro Malabar Church was abducted and held as a captive by extremists in Yemen for more than a year. The Catholics in Kerala are extremely worried about his safety. The extremists in Yemen have released many captives but the Indians are still being held by them. The Archbishops of Changanassery and Forane Council are extremely anxious for his early release.

I would like to urge upon the Government to take up the matter. The Ministry of External Affairs has taken a lot of initiatives but unfortunately, Father Tom Ushunnalil was not released. Day before yesterday, one year had completed since the incident. The entire Catholic Churches including the Archbishops, Bishops and nuns had a prayer meeting day before yesterday for early release of Father Tom Ushunnalil. This is a very important matter.

I would like the Government to take up the matter immediately and ensure early release of Father Tom Ushunnalil.