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Archbishop Leo of Helsinki offers condolences for school shooting tragedy in Finland



In a recent statement, Archbishop Leo of Helsinki and All Finland extended his heartfelt condolences following a tragic armed attack at a school in Vantaa, just north of Helsinki, on Tuesday, 2 April 2024. The attack resulted in the death of a 12-year-old student, with two others suffering serious injuries, as reported by local hospitals and law enforcement.

The Church of Finland shares in the profound grief and remembers the young victim, urging everyone to join in prayer for those who lost their lives and those affected by the devastating incident. Additionally, Archbishop Leo conveyed his sympathies via social media to the family members of the deceased child and the entire school community on behalf of the Finnish Orthodox Church.

The shooting occurred at Viertola School, attended by approximately 800 students aged 7 to 15 across two campuses, with around 90 staff members, according to municipal authorities.

Authorities have arrested the perpetrator, who confessed to the act during preliminary questioning. At present, there are no other suspects under investigation. Law enforcement officials have classified the incident as a case of homicide and attempted homicide, emphasizing that all individuals involved are Finnish nationals.

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