



RIGHT TO LIFE
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

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Right to Life Human Rights Center Demands Justice for Nagarasa Alex

Colombo, Sri Lanka – November 22, 2023 – The Right to Life Human Rights Center of Sri Lanka (R2L) is deeply saddened and outraged by the tragic death of 25-year-old Nagarasa Alex, who reportedly died due to alleged torture by Sri Lankan police. This horrific incident highlights the urgent need for comprehensive police reform and implementation of the amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) to empower magistrates to visit police stations and prisons.

Nagarasa Alex, a resident of Sithankerni, Jaffna, was arrested by the Vaddukkottai police on November 8, 2023, for his alleged involvement in a robbery. While in police custody, he suffered severe injuries, including multiple abrasions and contusions, as a result of alleged torture. Despite his deteriorating health, he was detained until November 19, 2023. Tragically, he passed away before he was admitted to the Jaffna Teaching Hospital.

The R2L strongly condemns the use of torture and ill-treatment by police officers, which is a violation of international human rights law and the fundamental rights and principles of justice guaranteed by the Constitution. The organization calls for a prompt, impartial, and thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Nagarasa Alex's death and urges the authorities to hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

The R2L further emphasizes the importance of amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code empowering magistrates to visit police stations and prisons. This would allow magistrates to directly observe the conditions of detainees and ensure that they are not subjected to torture or ill-treatment. Such visits would serve as a deterrent against abuse and promote transparency and accountability within the police and other authorities.

The R2L stands in solidarity with Nagarasa Alex's family and friends during this difficult time and demands justice for his untimely death. The organization will continue to advocate for comprehensive police reform and the protection of human rights in Sri Lanka.

About the Right to Life Human Rights Center of Sri Lanka

The Right to Life Human Rights Center of Sri Lanka (R2L) is an independent non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights in Sri Lanka. The organization works to raise awareness about human rights issues, provide legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, and advocate for policy reforms.

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