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01st October 2025

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake The President of Sri Lanka Presidential Secretariat Colombo 1

Your Excellency,

Request for the Immediate Dismissal of Police Officers Convicted of Fundamental Rights Violations by the Sri Lankan Supreme Court

The Sri Lanka Collective Against Torture (SLCAT), an alliance of human rights organisations and defenders committed to eradicating torture and protecting human dignity, wishes to draw your urgent attention to the recent judgment of the Supreme Court in SC/FR/87/2023. In this case, the former Acting Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Hatharaliyadda Police Station was found to have violated the fundamental rights of a 16-year-old boy through wrongful arrest, torture, and unlawful detention.

This ruling once again underscores a deeply troubling pattern of abuse of power within the Sri Lankan Police Service. Despite repeated Supreme Court judgments upholding citizens' rights, officers who commit serious violations often remain in service. This lack of accountability perpetuates a culture of impunity, erodes public trust, and undermines the rule of law.

We note with appreciation Your Excellency's strong remarks during the 159th Police Day celebrations at the Thimbirigasyaya Police Stadium under the theme "Let's Protect the Law – Let's Value Peace". In line with your call for accountability, SLCAT respectfully urges you to take decisive action by ensuring that any police officer convicted by the Supreme Court of violating a citizen's fundamental rights, particularly through torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, is immediately and permanently dismissed from service. While such an action would act as a powerful deterrent against future violations and reinforce the integrity of the police force, it would demonstrate your administration's commitment to justice, human rights, and democratic values.



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We urge Your Excellency to act without delay to prevent further harm and to guarantee that no citizen, especially a child, is subjected to such abuse at the hands of those entrusted with their protection.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Philip Dissanayake

Convener,

on behalf of the Sri Lanka Collective Against Torture (SLCAT)

Copies:

- 1. Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Education Dr. Harini Amarasuriya
- 2. Hon. Minister of Public Security Ananda Wijepala
- 3. Hon. Minister of Justice and National Integration Harshana Nanayakkara
- 4. Hon. Minister of Women and Child Affairs Mrs. Saroja Savithri Paulraj
- 5. Secretary, Ministry of Public Security
- 6. Secretary, Ministry of Justice and National Integration
- 7. Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
- 8. Inspector General of Police, Sri Lanka Police