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இலங்கை தேசிய கிறிஸ்தவ மன்றம்
National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

NCCSL expresses concern over the Sri Lankan Government's actions towards protestors

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) is deeply disturbed over the continuous use of water cannons and tear gas on peaceful protestors in Sri Lanka. Over the past months peaceful protests led by students, Trade Unions, opposition political parties and other groups have ended with the use of unwarranted force by the Sri Lanka Police which has killed and injured protestors.

The people in Sri Lanka have been continuing their call over the past months through widespread protests for accountability, relief from high inflation, taxes, and increase in utility costs during this economic crisis and against the postponement of elections. However, each of these protests have resulted in the Police using lethal force on peaceful protestors with many accusing the Police of provocative action.

The NCCSL stands together with the people of Sri Lanka during this time of economic crisis. The Sri Lankan people are suffering due to lack of affordable food and other basic needs as well as high taxes and utility costs. The Government must ensure that the causes for this economic crisis are addressed and those responsible are held accountable for their actions without transferring the burden on the suffering people.

Further, the NCCSL calls upon the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that independent and impartial inquiries are conducted on the assaults on its citizens. The freedom of expression and assembly is enshrined in the Constitution of Sri Lanka and it is the utmost responsibility of Government Authorities to respect these rights and freedoms

Signed:

Rt. Rev. Dr. V Pathmathayalan – Bishop of the Jaffna Diocese of South India and Chair- NCCSL, Rt. Rev. Dushantha Rodrigo – Bishop of Colombo, Church of Ceylon, Rt. Rev. Nishantha Fernando – Bishop of Kurunagala, Church of Ceylon, Rev. Ebenezer Joseph – President, Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, Rev. Shirley Faber – President, Christian Reformed Church, Rev. Heshan De Silva – President, Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya, Rev. Saman Perera - Moderator, Presbytery of Sri Lanka, Col. Nihal Hettiarachchi – Territorial Commander, Salvation Army Sri Lanka, Rev. Chrisso Handy – Superintendent/Chair – Assemblies of God, Rev. Harim Peiris – Acting President, Foursquare Gospel Church, Sri Lanka, Rev. Sujithar Sivanayagam – General Secretary, NCCSL, Back To The Bible Broadcast, The Ceylon Bible Society, Christian Literature Society, Student Christian Movement, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Theological College of Lanka, Colombo Theological Seminary and Youth for Christ.

#368/6, Baudhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka.

Telephone: +94 (11) 2671723 Fax: +94 (11) 2671721

E-Mail: info@nccsl.org | Website: www.nccsl.org