

**Performance Report - 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**  
**July to September 2016**

**Introduction**

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka was established by Act No. 21 of 1996. Appointments of the Chairperson and 4 Commissioners are made in compliance with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the 1978 Constitution.

The Commission functions with 159 staff members. The Commission has four (4) divisions namely Inquiries and Investigations, Education & Special Programmes, Research & Monitoring and Administration and Finance, and 10 Regional Offices located in Ampara, Anuradhapura, Badulla, Batticaloa, Jaffna, Kalmunai, Kandy, Matara, Trincomalee and Vavuniya to carry out its functions. The Chairperson and /or a Commissioner/ Commissioners supervise each Division and Regional Offices.

**Main Activities for the Quarter**

- A. To clear the backlog of cases two Inquiring Officers and one Project Assistant were recruited. The project is funded by the Government of Switzerland.
- B. The Commission established two coordinating Committees, namely Coordinating Committee of State Officials and Coordinating Committee of Civil Society Organizations in the 10 regional offices of HRCSL, with the aim of providing a forum for civil society to raise human rights issues of concern and thereafter channeling these issues to the relevant state authorities for resolution and action.
- C. HRCSL Strategic Plan 2017-2019

The Commission conducted meetings with Government Officials, Civil Society Organizations and UN Representatives in all provinces to obtain their views and ideas on future activities of HRCSL to be included the HRCSL Strategic Plan 2017 – 2019. Comments and suggestions from interested parties and citizens for the Strategic Plan were solicited through the HRCSL website.

**Schedule of Consultative Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Province</b>
17.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Northern
17.08.2016	UN Representatives	Northern
18.08.2016	State Officials	Eastern
18.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Eastern

18.08.2016	UN Representatives	Eastern
19.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Sabaragamuwa
23.08.2016	State Officials	Western
23.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Western
23.08.2016	UN Representatives	Western
24.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Central
24.08.2016	State Officials	North-Western
24.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	North-Western
25.08.2016	State Officials	Central
25.08.2016	State Officials	Northern
25.08.2016	State Officials	Southern
25.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Southern
25.08.2016	State Officials	Sabaragamuwa
26.08.2016	State Officials	North-Central
26.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	North-Central
29.08.2016	State Officials	Uva
29.08.2016	Civil Society Organizations	Uva
30.08.2016	National Programme	Colombo

D. During this quarter the UN Secretary General commended the work of the Human Rights Commission in his speech during his visit from 01<sup>st</sup> & 02<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 to Sri Lanka.

### **Recommendation to the Government**

- The Human Rights Commission submitted its proposals to the Parliamentary Sub Committee on Law & Order and reiterated the public security regime should be in line with Sri Lanka's Human Rights obligations.
- The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in a public statement commended the adoption of Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of functions) Act and reiterated a number of important elements that have to be given serious consideration in establishing the Office.
- The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka wrote to the Prime Minister (which was later made public) expressing concern about the bill published in the Gazette on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016 proposing to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, which limited rights of suspects to access a lawyer. The letter called upon the Government of Sri Lanka to withdraw the amendment and to continue to recognize and enhance the rights of suspects to have access to their lawyers.

### **Media Statement**

The Human Rights Commission brought to the notice of the general public that the only official institution discharging the function of promoting and protecting of human rights using the State emblem is the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka. This was in response to the information

and complaints received by the Commission regarding fund raising activities by a private organisation in the name of human rights.

### **Inquiries & Investigations Division**

The Commission established special units within the Inquiries and Investigation Division, namely General Complaints Unit, Torture/Custodial Violations Complaints Unit, Education Sector Complaints Unit and Economic, Social and Cultural rights Complaint Unit.

### **Summary of Complaints**

#### **Head Office**

No. of Complaints Received			1228
No. of Complaints within the mandate of HRCSL			618
No. of Complaints not within the mandate of HRC (Cannot Proceed)			184
Complaints pending for more information			426
<b>Categorization of the concluded cases</b>			
<b>No of Concluded Cases – cases registered in 2106</b>	<b>No of Concluded Cases – cases registered before 2016</b>	<b>Total</b>	
No FR Violation	03	09	12
Not Interested	38	13	51
Recommendation	06	12	18
Settlement	05	11	16
Relief Granted	04	06	10
Withdrawn	17	19	36
Refer to other Authorities	-	-	-
Directives given	-	02	02
Pending Court Cases	01	03	04
Not within mandate	07	06	13
Time bar	01	-	01
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>163</b>

## Regional Offices

	Ampar a.	Anur adap ura.	Badulla	Batti cloa	Jaffna	Kalmu nai	Kandy	Matara	Trinco malee	Vavun iya
No. of Complaints received	38	189	54	88	64	81	207	147	55	67
No. of Complaints within the mandate	36	180	50	87	54	81	180	132	52	48
No. of Complaints not within the mandate	6	9	4	1	4	-	27	15	3	22
No. of Complaints settled	34	11	5	4	73	62	140	160	21	72
No. of Complaints refer to Head office for recommendations	3	12	-	1	-	-	14	8	-	-
Number of clients to get our advice	220	1	228	69	51	63	318	348	2	357

## Summary of Visits to places of Detention

Head Office	Police Stations	Prisons	TID
	71	08	04

Regional Office	Ampa ra	Anura dhapu ra	Bad ulla	Batt icalo a	Jaff na	Kal mu nai	Kan dy	Mat ara	Trin com alee	Vavu niya
Police Stations	36	73	10	35	52	24	66	117	28	44
Prisons Visits	-	01	-	06	02	-	-	01	01	01
TID Visits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	01	-	01
Child Care Homes Visits	-	01	-	01	-	02	-	02	-	-
Elders Home visits	-	01	-	01	-	01	-	-	-	-
Rehabilitation Centres	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	02

## Fact Finding Mission

21.09.2016	Fact finding mission to investigate the explosions in Salawa and its impact on civilians.
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### **Meetings (Internal)**

<b>Meetings</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept.</b>
Board Meetings	20 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
Commissioners Meeting	11 <sup>th</sup>	08 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>
Meeting with Regional Co-ordinators		30 <sup>th</sup>	
Senior Managers Meetings	05 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Audit & Management Committee Meetings	14 <sup>th</sup>		

### **Thematic Sub Committee Meetings**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Sub Committee</b>
10.08.2016	Rights of Migrant Workers
19.08.2016	Rights of Differently-abled
30.08.2016	Education Policy
06.09.2016	Rights of Migrant Workers
20.09.2016	Rights of Elders

### **Meetings/Programmes participated/held with External Stakeholders**

08.07.2016	Discussion on Constitutional Reforms for High Performing Public Service organised by the Steering Committee of the Constitutional Assembly Sub Committee on Public Service
12.07.2016	US Asst. Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour
12.07.2016	Officials of High Commission of UK
20.07.2016	Meeting with UN Officials
23.07.2016	Meeting with Chairman, Election Commission
01.08.2016	Chairperson attended the Sub Regional Workshop for Lawyers on Public Interest Litigation and access to Justice for Migrant Workers organised by Solidarity Centre, Sri Lanka
03.08.2016	Meeting with the Secretary to the President

04.08.2016	Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting on Human Rights : Action Plan for Human Rights
12.08.2016	Roundtable discussion on the ratification of CRPD and the draft disability law
12.08.2016	Lakshman Kadiragamar memorial lecture on Sustainable Development Goals – working together for our common world
15.08.2016	Participated in National Anti-Trafficking Task Force Meeting
01.09.2016	Meeting with H E Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the UN
02.09.2016	Meeting with Madam Ban Soon-taek, Spouse of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon regarding key issues on gender-based violence in Sri Lanka.
06.09.2016	Meeting to discuss Vetting Procedure with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
07.09.2016	Meeting with Mr. Nicolas Booth – UNDP
18.09.2016	Participated in a programme organized by the Western Province Social Services Dept. under the theme of “Walk in my shoes” which focussed to promote rights of differently abled persons
19.09.2016	Participated in the implementation of Purawara Serisara program organized by Ministry of Public Administration and Management
20.09.2016	Participated in the Open Dialogue Session with Civil Society on the Office of the Missing Person and the National Consultation Process organized by the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms (SCRM)
20.09.2016	Forum Discussion on Trafficking in Women at Ministry of Women’s Affairs
26.08.2016	Participated in the inauguration ceremony of the International Conference on Human Rights, Citizenship and Democratization organized by Centre for Study of Human Rights, University of Colombo
21.09.2016	Participated in Refugee Advocate Meeting in Negombo
27.09.2016	Participated in the Workshop on plain language drafting of Constitutional Text conducted by Constitutional Assembly Secretariat
27.09.2016	Meeting with WHO country Representatives
30.09.2016	Meeting with Hon. Speaker/Chairperson of Constitutional Council

### Media Programmes

<b>Date</b>	<b>TV / Radio Programme &amp; Paper Article</b>	<b>Channel/ Paper</b>	<b>HRCSL Participation</b>
03.07.2016	Interview	Ravaya	Dr. Deepika Udagama Chairperson

### Foreign Conferences, Seminars & Trainings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Nature of the Programme</b>
29.08.2016	Dr. Deepika Udagama, Chairperson/HRCSL	The Chairperson addressed the UN Committee on Migrant Workers Rights and briefed HRCSL Subcommittee on Migrant Workers Rights highlighting some issues using Video Conference facilities.
26 – 27 Sept. 2016	Mr. A L Issadeen, Acting Regional Co-ordinator – Kalmunai	Training program organized by Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions Blended Learning Programme on Human Rights Education in Thailand.

### Capacity Building of Staff

<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Resource person</b>
23/24.07.2016 25/26.07.2016	Training on Inquiries & Investigations Procedure Preparation of Manual on Inquiries & Investigations Procedure	Ms. Pele Walker, Mediator, New Zealand Human Rights Commission Dr. Deepika Udagama Chairperson /HRCSL
03.08.2016	Special discussion on the Report of the Public Consultation Committee on Constitutional Reform and HRCSL Proposals for Constitutional Reform to HRCSL Staff	Dr. Harini Amarasuriya Senior Lecturer Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences-Open University of Sri Lanka Dr. Kalana Senaratne Visiting Lecturer University of Peradeniya

12.08.2016	Training Programme to enhance the capacity of HRCSL officials to work with LGBT IQ persons to be aware of the importance of treating every citizen equally, and with respect regardless of their sexual orientation gender identity and be aware of specific human rights violations to which LGBT IQ persons are subjected.	Equal Ground organization
05/06.09.2016	Referral Mechanism Training to Inquiries & Investigations staff.	Senior Officials of ; Cooperative Employees Commission Public Utilities Commission of Sri Lanka Parliamentary Committee on Public Petitions Sri Lanka Insurance Ombudsman Consumer Affairs Authority Ministry of Justice Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption.

### Lecture Assistance

Date	Target group	Topic	Organizers
15.09.2016	Police Officers	Human Rights Mechanisms	National Police Academy – Negombo

### Research and Monitoring Activities

Date	Activity
28.07.2016	Sudden visit to Rathupaswala area - Water issue

### **Number of Human Rights awareness programs conducted and lecture assistances provided by Regional offices.**

Ampara	04
Anuradapura	01
Badulla	01



Batticloa	06
Jaffna	06
Kandy	-
Kalmunai	07
Matara	-
Trincomalee	01
Vavuniya	-

**Financial Report ( 01.07.2016 - 30.09.2016)**

<b>Imprest Received from Treasury</b>	
Recurrent	30,400,000.00
Capital	2,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,400,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
PERSONNEL EMOLUMENTS	24,361,495.14
TRAVELING EXPENSES	216,542.50
SUPPLIES	1,169,306.89
MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE	495,202.84
SERVICES	3,904,706.70
TRANFERS	721,947.22
REHAB. & IMPR. OF CAPITAL ASSETS	
ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL ASSETS	61,630.00
CAPACITY BUILDING	639,784.71
OTHER CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2,128,875.12 (Other Investments - HR Programs)	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>33,699,491.12</b>