

## இ டுංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොම්ෂන් සභාව இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA



Dr. W. A. M. Shelton Perera

**BY EMAIL** 

Director

Colombo North Teaching Hospital,

Ragama

Dear Dr Perera

## Re: Bodies of Remandees from Mahara prison

We were informed by the authorities that the bodies of the eleven people who were killed at Mahara Prison on 29/30 November were handed over to the Colombo North Teaching Hospital on 30 November and are now in your custody.

We note from media reports that 8 of the 11 people who were shot to death have been found to have been infected by the COVID-19 virus.

While we are aware of the regulations in relation to disposal of bodies of those infected by the virus, we write to remind you that these bodies form part of an investigation that has already commenced. Therefore, they should be preserved in a manner compatible with health requirements but not be cremated or destroyed in any other way until the autopsy proceedings in relation to their death is concluded. Further, where possible, external examination of the bodies such as photographs etc can be commenced and access should be provided to the forensic team for this purpose.

Our inquiries reveal that although your hospital lacks the facilities for performing autopsies on bodies of people who were infected with the virus, the mortuary at the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Kotikawatte does have the required facilities and permission should be sought from the Magistrate for seeking their expertise if required.

පුධාන කාර්යාලය conc/8 ෆෘක්ස් 14, ආර්. ඒ. ද මෙල් මාවත, තොදුම - 04. ට්මේල් பிரதான அலுவலகம் **Bellenmi** 011-2505451 கொணைகல் 14, ஆர்.ஏ.த. மெல் மாவத்தை, கோழம்பு - 04. 011-2505541 மின்னஞ்சல் sechrc@gmail.com Head Office Chairperson 14, R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo - 04. Fax e-mail දරකථන adeal dade a£8 ດອກສາດເປັນທີ -11-2505580 / 81 / 82 011-2505521 Gaussonanti தரித அழைப்பு 1996 Reneration www.hrcsl.lk Telephone Secretary Hotline Web

The HRCSL is specially required to ensure the welfare of those deprived of the liberty under Section 11(d) of the HRCSL Act No. 21 of 1996 and this letters is being written under the authority of the same.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

SINAZ

Ramani Muttettuwegama Commissioner in charge of Investigations and Inquiries Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

 C. Wickremaratne Inspector General of Police,

Police Headquarters

Colombo 01

2. Thushara Upuldeniya Commissioner general of Prisons

**Prison Headquarters** 

Colombo 9.

- Prof. Anuruddhi Edirisinghe Professor of Forensic Medicine, Department of Forensic Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Kelaniya
- Handun C. Wijewardena Consultant Judicial Medical Officer Judicial Medical Office Colombo North Teaching Hospital, Ragama

පුධාන කාර්යාලය பிரதான அலுவலகம் Head Office	14. (2)0. d. c elled (2)00, engle - 04. 14. (2). d. c elled (2)00, engle - 04. 14. R. A. De Mel Mawatha, Colombo - 04.	ത്താങ് ട്രംഭിണണ് Chairperson	011-2505451	ஸன்ன் தொலைநகல் Fax	011-2505541 / 74	<mark>568ர</mark> மின்னஞ்சல் e-mail	} sechro@gmail.com
<b>தப்பைகை</b> தொலைபேசி Telephone	94 -11- 2505580 / 81 / 82	දේකම් මහඩංගාසාර් Secretary	011-2505521	<b>ம்கல்ம</b> தரித அழைப்பு Hotline	1996	லை இணையம் Web	} www.hrcsi.lk