05.05.2021

C.D. Wickramaratne
Inspector General of Police
Police Headquarters
Colombo 01.

Re : Rights and the welfare of the persons in Police Custody, and the persons due to be arrested

It is noted by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka that number of illegal arrests and detention has increased during the period, between 17.03.2020 – 15.05.2020 in the prevailing situation of Covid 19, pandemic. We, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka informed to you to report back to the Commission regarding the actions that you have taken to stop such incidents further by the letter dated 27.08.2020.

You are aware of new pandemic situation in the Country and Human Rights Commission urge you once again to not to allow such situation again and to execute as per the law with regard to suspects who are arrested in this circumstances.

Human Rights Commission is herewith informed by certain persons that the problematic situation is araised pertaining to welfare and protection of detainees as long time detainees are restricted to meet their lawyers and relatives due to transportation restriction in this pandemic situation. Accordingly we urge you to inform the Human Rights Commission before 15.05.2021 regarding the positive actions that you have taken to facilitate the communication between the detainees and their lawyers and relatives before 15.05.2021.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka take steps to forward any possible recommendation with regard to welfare of detainees detained by order of a competent Court or any other means under the authority of section 11(wE) and investigation into Fundamental rights violation as per the Section 11(w) of No: 21of 1996 Human Rights Commission act.

Chairman
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.