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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Release

Do not attempt to do indirectly what you could not do directly

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) informs that the imposition of police curfew arbitrarily by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) is illegal. The order violates the basic human rights of the people by unlawfully restricting their right to movement. If there is a breach of peace in any police area, by this mechanism the police officer in charge in that area may curtail the movement.

The IGP is making an illegal order when there was no complaint of violations. The IGP is directed to inform the public of the basis of this order. After failing to get a court order to prevent the march for tomorrow the state is attempting to curtail the march by illegal means. It is attempting to do indirectly what it could not do directly. The police cannot impose a police curfew in anticipation of a breach of peace when there were no complaints of any such acts.

Alarminglly the army is ordered to gather troops to maintain law and order. These are illegal orders. The IGP is directed to inform the public of the basis of this illegal order. All these illegal orders further diminish the image of the country. The HRCSL directs the IGP to recall this illegal order which is a gross violation of the fundamental rights of the people immediately.

Justice Rohini Marasinghe,
Retired Judge of Supreme Court / Chairperson
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

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