

Press Notice No: HRC/P/E/i/27/03/23

Press Notice

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) received approximately 70 complaints with regard to the incidents of burning of houses, other damage and destruction of property theft, robbery, and endangering public safety and security on the 9th and 10th of May 2022. The inquiry with regard to the said complaints is ongoing. The evidence of numerous persons including the complainants as well as police officers from relevant police divisions has already been recorded.

On 27th March 2023, the IGP will provide further statements, in particular, to explain the two circulars identified as relevant to this inquiry, as well as to provide evidence with regard to correspondence and directions made in the lead-up to the aforesaid incidents.

The Commanders of the Tri-forces have also been informed to provide explanations as to how incidents of such magnitude occurred during a period when an Order under section 12 of the Public Security Ordinance was in force and to provide clarification as to steps taken by the Tri-forces to maintain public order and provide public security during the relevant period.

At the conclusion of the inquiry, having considered all relevant evidence the HRCSL will make Recommendations as envisaged by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act including recommendations as to human rights-compliant measures which should be taken by the Government to ensure public security and maintain public order.

The Commission intends to conclude the inquiry and provide its Report by the end of April 2023.

Media Spokesperson Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

27. 03. 2023