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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Notice No: HRC/P/i/E/11/05/23

Press Notice

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, held an initial hearing into the matters about the X Press Pearl disaster of May 2021 off the western coast of Sri Lanka. This hearing was called in response to two complaints received by the HRCSL. The first complainant received is Dr. Aajantha Perera. Dr. Perera is a renowned environmental scientist and academic with extensive experience both in Sri Lanka and internationally. The second complainant is from the Centre for Environmental Justice Ltd represented by its Executive Director Mr. Hemantha Withanage. Mr. Withanage also functions as the Chair of the internationally respected environmental organization Friends of the Earth International.

During this initial hearing on the 10th, the HRCSL hearing summoned and recorded into evidence from a senior officer of the Merchant Shipping Secretariat on its roles and responsibilities as regards the procedures related to ship clearance in the Colombo port and how these were adhered to in reference specifically to the case of the X Press Pearl both before and after it entered the territorial waters of Sri Lanka.

Hearings into this matter will resume and continue over the coming days.

Media Spokesperson
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

11.05.2023