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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Press Notice No: HRC/P/E/iii/11/12/23

## Press Notice

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is the largest tertiary care hospital in Sri Lanka caring for patients with mental illness. The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) received several complaints regarding how patients were being handled by the staff, the use of restraints on patients, and manners of obtaining patients' consent at the NIMH.

In July 2023 there was a death of a patient at the NIMH that was suspected to have been caused by support staff attempts to restrain him. In addition to the court proceedings that are currently ongoing, the Human Rights Commission is also conducting an investigation into this incident. Considering the above the Human Rights Commission initiated a fact-finding mission to the NIMH.

The HRCSL appointed team conducted the investigation prioritizing the right to health and personal liberty of patients. The team reviewed existing literature and documents and conducted site visits where questionnaires were administered, and interviews were carried out

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at its event to mark 2023 International Human Rights Day, the HRCSL released the interim report of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Right to Health and Liberty of the Patients at the National Institute of Mental Health. The recommendations of the interim report address several key institutions such as the Ministry of Health, the NIMH, the Sri Lanka Police, and the Department of Prison.

Spokesperson  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

11.12.2023