



Address: Kemp House, 152-160 City Road,
London, United Kingdom EC1V 2NX

Email: mail@prgsrilanka.org | Web: prgsrilanka.org
Tel: +44(0)20 8191 9612 | Hotline: +44(0)74 0101 864

31st March 2020

Inspector General
Police Headquarters
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dear Sir,

Expression of concern on handling the COVID 19 pandemic in Sri Lanka

First of all, we, being the PRG Sri Lanka, have been praying to God to ease the situation in Sri Lanka, our country from the deadly pandemic for which none of us are the elementary cause. We are suffering from this due to our international contacts that is inevitable in terms of international relations and business.

However, we, herewith, regret to inform you that the controlling mechanism of the disease that is effectively carried out by the association of the health authorities, doctors, nurses, police and army force under the guidance of His Excellency, President Gotabaya Rajapaksha, is sadly mixed with racist views and statements in the electronic and social media. While we have been continuously observing the news and other programs it is obviously noticeable. Finally all those are carried in social media, we feel, might lead to create lot of misunderstandings amongst the ethnic and religious groups in the country and consequently we might fail in the cause and instead, we might create another issue like we had last year, during the former government was in power, the ethnic riots that was carried out in many Muslim concentrations of three districts with the help of the Sinhalese mobs who were supported by the police and army publicly and that caused to burn Muslim places of worship, businesses and houses and brought a great loss to the country and a brutal death.

Also, we would like to remind you the 52-day struggle against the democratic system in the country and at last caused the Muslims Ministers and MPs to resign from their portfolios and posts. We found it very ugly act of some Buddhist monks.

Today, we particularly observe when the Muslim COVID-19 suspects are identified, the action is videoed and shown in the social media and this results in sharing them everywhere easily with fault statements blaming the Muslims. We believe it is done so purposely. Though, there are many Sinhalese who are showing their objection for this manner, we feel the people who are doing with the intention of creating conflict between the ethnic and religious groups are in the front, influence the majority Sinhalese and are spreading it all over the world. It, indeed, affects our Sinhalese-Muslim relationship outside of the country too. It is also regrettable note that during a recent TV interview, the Army commander too recently mentioned the ethnicity when referring to Muslims Corona victims.

Therefore, we kindly request you to look into this critical issue that cannot be justified by any means and take action against the culprits who are trying to create unnecessary problems while we all have been worried about how to get rid of the deadly COVID-19 epidemic. We the majority should be exemplary to all minorities and go hand in hand in all kind of activities. Especially, it is not advisable to hurt anyone infected with the name of the religion and ethnicity that is nothing to do with this new pandemic. We also should understand that more than 75 % of the infected persons are from the Sinhalese community and it was due our carelessness.

We thank you for your early action in this regard

People's Rights Group
secretary@prgsrilanka.org