Statement by Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabey, Bishop of Colombo

We are made to understand that at a meeting held on the August 4, 2014 at the Centre for Society and Religion, Colombo 10 to discuss issues related to the disappeared with their families, was abruptly disrupted by the invasion by a group of monks and civilians. When this incident occurred some of the civil rights leaders and a priest rose to the occasion to persuade and reason out with the group of people who were trying to invade and disrupt the meeting to act calmly and disperse.

In this context one of our priest, Rev M. Sathivel was also among the civil right leaders who took the initiative to discuss with this invading group to leave the premises peacefully. After sometime police intervened and the crowd dispersed. Following this incident this group of monks and persons held a press conference wherein they produced a picture of Rev. Sathivel and said that he is no longer a priest, discredited person and disowned by his own Church.

I do not in any way condone such action against a peaceful gathering, and as his Bishop affirm that Rev. M. Sathivel is a long standing and a credible Priest of the Diocese of Colombo with over 25 years of parish and community work with a justice and peace consciousness. I uphold him in my prayers and pray to God for his courageous ministry which is part of our Lord's own ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Rt. Revd. Dhiloraj Canagasabey
Bishop of Colombo
18 August 2014