

07th April, 2026

Mr. Anura Kumara Dissanayake,
The President of Sri Lanka,
Presidential Secretariat,
Galle Face,
Colombo-01

**Rgrd: The unconditional release of 10 long-term
Tamil Political Prisoners
as promised in the NPP Election Manifesto**

The issue of Political Prisoners in Sri Lanka is a long standing one, with hundreds of political dissidents, activists and journalists being arrested and indefinitely detained under Emergency Law and/or the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). From the two JVP uprisings in the 1970's & '80s, to the 30 year long ethnic conflict, to how the Muslim community was unfairly targeted and repressed following the Easter Sunday Attacks, and most recently, following the mass People's Struggle (Aragalaya), **the State has weaponised 'terror laws' and emergency regulations, to crush dissent and political opponents.**

Of the 10 (*summary case details attached*) remaining long-term Tamil political prisoners detained under the PTA, **the trials of Selvarajah Kirupaharan and Thambaiya Pragash, who were arrested in August 2009, are still ongoing. This amounts to almost two decades of their lives being held behind bars, prior to even a sentencing!** They have missed out on the entirety of their youth, and much of their adulthood, whilst waiting out their trial. **The remaining eight detainees, although been convicted, have spent more than 15 years in prison, with two having been in prison for almost 30 years, and having also been subject to brutal torture and harassment, at the hands of police, prison officials and fellow inmates, and subject to arbitrary delays and procedural flaws.**

Therefore, it is the unanimous appeal of all 10 victim families, and the detainees themselves, that they be **unconditionally released and permitted to reintegrate into society, as both an act of reconciliation, and as promised in the NPP Government's Election Manifesto.**

This action is not without precedent. In November 1977, former President J.R. Jayawardene announced a general pardon to all JVP cadre serving sentences under the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Act, (which was used to try the 1971 JVP insurgents). **We hope that this Government, having experienced State repression first hand, will issue a similar unconditional release of the remaining 10 Tamil PTA detainees, who have already spent half of their adult lives inside prison.**

In light of the above facts, we call on the President to;

- **To unconditionally release all 10 long-term Tamil Political Prisoners, as a significant step towards reconciliation, and staying true to NPP Government's Election promise**
- **Review and fast-track cases of all other PTA detainees, including those arrested after the Easter Sunday Attacks, and charge or unconditionally release all PTA detainees**
- **Provide fair and proportionate reparations to all PTA detainees who have been acquitted of all charges, some after as much as 15 years in prison**
- **Repeal the PTA immediately and impose an immediate moratorium on its use until such time**
- **Withdraw the proposed Protection of the State from Terrorism Act (PSTA) and commit to not introducing any new terror laws to replace the PTA.**

Signatories;

PTA Detainee Families (*Appeal letters to the President attached*)

1. K. Vaakani
2. S. Rajeshwari
3. E. Maadhawaraja
4. Mary Angela Colin
5. S. Kathirkamathamby

Organisations/Movements

6. Amayam Rights Action Movement (ARAM), Batticaloa
7. Archdeaconry of Jaffna - Diocese of Colombo, Church of Ceylon
8. Batti Ecology and Disaster Hub, Batticaloa
9. Centre for Society & Religion (CSR), Maradana
10. Dabindu Collective
11. Eastern Civil Activists Forum
12. Families of the Disappeared (FoD)
13. Free Women
14. Global United for Peace and Justice
15. Human Rights Office, Kandy
16. Institute for People Engagement and Networking (iPEN)
17. Institute of Social Development (ISD), Kandy
18. International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES)
19. International Human Rights Global Mission Coordinator, Batticaloa
20. Inter Religious Forum, Batticaloa
21. Jaffna Inter Religious Group (JIRG)
22. Janawaboda Kendraya

23. Kithusara Group
24. Law and Society Trust (LST)
25. Mannar Women's Development Federation (MWDF)
26. Movement for Land and Agricultural Reform (MONLAR)
27. Movement for Plantation Peoples' Land Right (MPPLR)
28. Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights (MDDR)
29. Movement of Christian Women's Voice (MoCWV)
30. National Fisheries Solidarity Movement (NAFSO)
31. National Youth Services Council – National Board, Batticaloa
32. Praja Abhilasha Network
33. Rural Development Planning Organization (RDPO), Batticaloa
34. Shramabhimani Kendraya
35. Social Institute for Development of Plantation Sector (SIDPS)
36. Sri Lanka Campaign
37. Standup Movement Lanka
38. Tamil Civil Society Forum (TCSF)
39. Thean Aruvi Women's Center
40. Upcountry Civil Society Collective (UCSC)
41. Voice of the Plantation People Organization (VOPP)
42. Women's Action Network (WAN)
43. Women's Development Innovators
44. Young Lawyers Association (YLA)
45. YOUTH FOR CHEnge
46. Youth Rights Collective

Unions

47. A.M.S.D. Perera - President, All Ceylon Telecommunication Employees Union
48. Amila Sandaruwan - Joint Teachers Service Union
49. Anton Marcus - General Secretary, Free Trade Zones & General Services Employees Union
50. Ashila Dandeniya - Standup Workers Union
51. Chamila Thushari - Dabindu Collective Union
52. Commercial and Industrial Workers Union (CIWU)
53. D.G.N.U.K. Jayarathna - Joint Railway Employees Union
54. Dammika Munasinghe - Joint Development Officers Centre
55. Devinda Kodagoda - Private Workers Centre
56. Duminda Nagamuwa - Workers Struggle Centre
57. Jaffna District Inter Religious Committee (J DIRC)
58. Joseph Stalin - General Secretary, Ceylon Teachers' Union (CTU)
59. K.N.P. Fernando - Joint Nursing Service Union

60. K. Nidarshan - Executive Committee Member, Union of Post and Telecommunications Officers
61. Lalitha Ranjane Dedduwakumara - Textile, Garment and Clothing Workers Union
62. Madushan Chandrajith - Convenor, Inter University Students' Federation (IUSF)
63. Marx Prabagar - Plantation Workers Centre
64. Medirigiriye Issara Dhamma himi - Convenor, Inter University Bhikkhus' Federation (IUBF)
65. Palitha Athukorala - President, National Union of Seafarers Sri Lanka (NUSS)
66. Srinath Perera - General Secretary, Free Trade Union Centre
67. Tempitiye Sugathananda himi - Joint Health Workers' Union
68. Vanni Christian Union (VCU)
69. Y.B. Jayasekara - Joint Water Supply Workers Union

Individuals

70. A.L. Varia
71. Abdul Hameed Mohamed Aashif
72. Ahinsaka Perera - Social Activist
73. Aingaran Kugathanan - Attorney-at-Law
74. Ajitha A. - Vallamai Traveler
75. Amalaraj Amalanayaki - President, Enforced Disappeared, Batticaloa district
76. Amila Udagedara
77. Amutha Vipulananda
78. Angelica Chandrasekeran
79. Anthony Jesudasan
80. Anu Piyasena - Activist
81. Anushaya Collure
82. Arjuna Parakrama - Professor Emeritus, University of Peradeniya
83. Ashen Hannadige - Social Activist
84. B. Gowthaman
85. B. Vasanthagowry
86. Balasingham Skanthakumar
87. Bishop Duleep de Chickera
88. Bishop Kumara Illangasinghe
89. Carmel Shangeetha
90. Chaminda Dias
91. Channaka Jayasinghe
92. Chanu Nimesha
93. Chintaka Rajapakse
94. Christopher Stephen
95. Damith Chandimal
96. Daya Herath - Executive Director, Community Education Centre, Malabe

97. Dayapala Thiranagama - Formerly of Kelaniya University
98. Deekshya Illangasinghe
99. Dhammika Silva - Political Activist
100. Dhanuka Rananjaka Kahandagamage - Attorney-at-Law
101. Dhanusha Pathirana
102. Dhanushka Silva - Attorney-at-Law
103. Dharmasiri Lankapeli
104. Dilhara Pathirana
105. Dishani Fernando - Attorney-at-Law
106. Dishani Weralupitiyage
107. Divya Martyn
108. Dr. C.S. Jamunanantha
109. Dr. Mahendran Thiruvarangan - University of Jaffna
110. Dr. Thirunavukarasu Balamurukan
111. Duleeka Nonis
112. Francis Raajan
113. Ganabathipillai Nagaraththinam
114. Ganabathipillai Ramalingam
115. Godfrey Yogarajah
116. Hajiani, Dr. Seyed Firdawoosbee Hanifdeen
117. Hasna Hasbullah
118. Hemalatha K. - Activist
119. Herman Kumara
120. Hussain Shamil - Social Activist
121. Imran Rajabdeen - Civic Rights Activist/Free Palestine Movement
122. Indra Saparamadu
123. Ishani Ranasinghe - Activist
124. Ithayarani S.
125. J. Sneha
126. Jagath Kularatne - Attorney-at-Law
127. Janakie Seneviratne
128. Jasintha Subasinghe
129. Jayanthi Somasekeram
130. Jayaraman Kobinath
131. Jeana De Zoysa
132. Jeevaratnam Suresh
133. Jeevaretnam Shajeev
134. Jehan Jegatheesan
135. Jeyaraj Mohamraj
136. Jeyaraman Kobinath
137. Jey Kishor

138. Joanne Senn
139. K. J. Brito Fernando
140. K. Mahaluxmy
141. K. Pathmaseni
142. Kalani Subasinghe
143. Kanagakulasingam Suththanantha
144. Kanaga Vivekananda
145. Kanapadipilli Nagarathinam
146. Kana Siva
147. Kanesa Loganatha Kurukkal - President, Eastern Hindu Priest Forum
148. Kan Vipulananda
149. Kathirgamar Jegatheeswary
150. Ken Braman
151. Keshayinie Edmund
152. Kohila Suththanantha
153. Kounthini R. - Vallamai Traveler
154. Kumaranayagam Pavani
155. Kusal Perera
156. Kuvenitha S.
157. L. Kasmy
158. Lalin Stephan Angelo Fernandopulle
159. Lalith Abeysinghe - Social Activist
160. Laveena Hasanthi
161. Lionel Peiris
162. Lucille Abeykoon
163. M. Lasiya
164. M. V. Rameshananthan
165. Mahendran Chandravathani
166. Marian Pradeepa
167. Mario Gomez
168. Marisa de Silva
169. Marisa Fernando
170. Mariyaraj Jeneed
171. Mariyarosari S. - Activist
172. Markandu Navaratnaraja
173. Mathusshan Sivanantha
174. Melani Gunathilaka
175. Melani Manel Perera - Journalist
176. Mujeebur Rahman, LLB - National Organiser, NFGG
177. Muralitharan Darmaseelan
178. Muthulingam Periyasamy

179. N. Thirugnanasothy
180. Nadeesha Hanwella
181. Nagulan Nesiah
182. Nalini Rathnarajah
183. Natasha Vanhoff
184. Neranjan Maddumage
185. Nicola Perera - University of Colombo
186. Nilmini Nonis
187. Nimal Perera
188. Nimanthi Fernando - Attorney-at-Law
189. Nirmala M. - Activist
190. Nirmala T.
191. Nisali Uththara
192. Niththika S. - Artist
193. Nivanthini S. - Vallamai Traveler
194. Nuzaik M.N.A.
195. P.D. Saranapala
196. P.N. Singham
197. P. Suvajini
198. Padma Pushpakanthi
199. Palipody Parasiraman
200. Pasan Jayasinghe
201. Prabath Hemantha Kumara
202. Prabathi Sachinthana
203. Prasad Welikumbura
204. Priyantha Gamage - Attorney-at-Law
205. Prof. Jayadeva Uyangoda
206. Puni Selvaratnam
207. Rahman A.
208. Rajany Rajeswary - Feminist Activist
209. Rajkumar Rajeevkanth
210. Rasathurai Siventhiran
211. Raveendran V.
212. Revd. A. Stephen
213. Revd. Andrew Devadason - Anglican Church, Diocese of Colombo
214. Revd. B. Joel Piravinth - Batticaloa
215. Revd. Fr. Bennette Mellawa
216. Revd. Dr. Preman Rajan Rohaan - Peace Commission, CACM
217. Revd. Fr. Devaraj Nesakumar
218. Revd. Fr. Jeevantha Peiris
219. Revd. Fr. Jeyabalan Croos

220. Revd. Fr. M. Sathivel
221. Revd. Fr. M.V.E. Ravichandran
222. Revd. Fr. Nandana Manatunga
223. Revd. Fr. Rohan Silva, OMI
224. Revd. Fr. Rohitha Vijayaraj
225. Revd. Fr. S.P. Nesakumar
226. Revd. Fr. Sherard Jayawardane
227. Revd. Fr. Terrence Fernando
228. Revd. Fr. Thirunavukarasu Dixon
229. Revd. G. Manoruban
230. Revd. Fr. I.D. Dixon
231. Revd. John Atputhamany
232. Revd. K. Varatharajan
233. Revd. M. Lukejohn
234. Revd. N.J. Gnanaponrajah
235. Revd. N. John Gnanakarunyan
236. Revd. P. Gunavathany
237. Revd. P. Princeneushan
238. Revd. S. D. P. Selvan
239. Revd. S. S. Jebachelvan
240. Revd. S. Thevathas
241. Revd. Sr. Berni De Silva
242. Revd. Sr. Damitha De Silva
243. Revd. Sr. Deepa Fernando
244. Revd. Sr. Marian Evusta
245. Revd. Sr. Rasika Sharmen Pieris, HF
246. Revd. Sr. Shandika Perera
247. Revd. Sr. Shiromi Fernando
248. Revd. V. Daniel Jeyaruban
249. Revd. Vasanthan Ananthan - Jaffna
250. Rita Fernando
251. Rosita Fernando
252. Rushdi Habib - Attorney-at-Law
253. S. Akshayan
254. S. Karthika
255. S. Mathiyarasi
256. S. Sivayoganathan
257. S. Sunthareswaran
258. S.T. Ganeshalingam
259. S. Tamiliny
260. Sabapathy Sivagurunathan

261. Sabra Zahid
262. Sadique Salih
263. Sakuntala Kadirgamar
264. Saman Jayasiri - Trade Unionist
265. Sameera Mahboobdeen
266. Sandun Thudugala
267. Sarankan K.
268. Saratha Jayabalasingam
269. Saththiyaseelan K. - Activist and Artist
270. Sellaiah Thilagavathy
271. Sellathurai Mathiyarasi
272. Selvaraja Rajasegar - Editor, Maatram.org
273. Senaka Perera - Attorney-at-Law
274. Shagu Braman
275. Shamini V. - Activist
276. Shenali Perera
277. Shirani Cooray
278. Shohan Perera
279. Sinnadurai Vijayakulasingam
280. Sirtunga Jayasuriya - United Socialist Party (USP)
281. Sounthararajah Kinoshan
282. Sriyanthi Perera
283. Suchith Abeyewickreme - Civic Activist and Member, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation (ONUR)
284. Suganthini S.
285. Sugath Rajapaksha
286. Sujatha J.
287. Sumathy Sivamohan (Retired Professor)
288. Sunanda Deshapriya
289. Suntharalingam Rahini
290. Swasthika Arulingam - Attorney-at-Law
291. T. Fattima
292. T. Jeyarathnarajah - Attorney-at-Law
293. T. M. Premawardhana - Retired Director of Education
294. T. Nameeswaran
295. T. Navajothy
296. Thachanamoorthy Navajothy
297. Thangarajah Gapalarajah
298. Thangarasa Anuratha
299. Thanahasalam Kirishanth
300. Thanirasa Kirubairajah

301. Thanuja M.
302. Tharindu Milan
303. Tharindu Uduwaragedara - Journalist
304. Tharmalingam Ganesh
305. Thasneema Dahlan
306. Thayalalingam Prashathanan
307. Thayalini J.
308. Theresa Rajapaksas
309. Thileepan S. - Social Activist
310. Thiruchchelvam Silviyan Stellon
311. Thisanthini Thiruchelvam
312. Thushyanthan Sivanantha
313. Tisaranee Gunasekara
314. V. Weerasingham
315. Vanie Simon
316. Vanitha Ratnesan
317. Ven. Fr. Samuel J. Ponniah
318. Ven. Kalupahana Piyaratana - Former Commissioner, Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka
319. Vimukthi de Silva
320. Vimuth Fernando
321. W.C.N Alwis
322. W.F. Priyankara Costa
323. Wasantha Dissanayake
324. Wijepala Weerakoon