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இலங்கை உழைக்கும் ஊடகவியலாளர் சங்கம்
Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association

Incorporated by Parliament Act No.46 in1987/Trade Union Registration No 8528

No.276/3, PRADEEPA MAWATHA, MALIGAWATTE, COLOMBO-10, SRI LANKA | TEL : 0112439276

2nd April 2019

Mr. K.W.E. Karaliyadde
Chairman
National Police Commission
BMICH Premises, Block 09
Colombo 7

Dear Sir

**ARREST OF WRITER SHAKTHIKA SATHKUMARA BY POLGAHAWELA
POLICE**

Writer Shakthika Sathkumara has been arrested by Polgahawela Police on the basis of the International Civil and Political Rights Charter (I.C.P.R.C) introduced in 2007 and by now he is kept under detention till 9th April 2019.

The reason for his detention is writing and publishing a short story in the social media. Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association believe that this short story does not disrespect the Buddhist philosophy or lead to religious or racial conflict. However, Polgahawela Police has arrested the said writer on a complaint made by a group of Buddhist Clergy.

By arresting this writer under the Civil and Political Rights Charter, his freedom of expression has violated. As you know, if somebody produced to a magistrate court under the said Charter, he/she cannot be bailed out. Therefore, SLWJA think that Police had an intension to arrest Shakthika. Even though there were many people including Buddhist clergy or other religious leaders who made statements, wrote articles etc., etc., which lead to racial and religious conflicts, police have not taken any step to take them into custody and produce before the courts on the International Civil and Political Rights Charter.

Under the above circumstances, SLWJA feel that action taken by Polgahawela police on writer Shakthika Sathkumara leads to serious problems. Therefore, SLWJA kindly request National Police Commission to hold a fair inquiry on this matter and bring justice for Shakthika.

Duminda Sampath
President

Frank De Zoysa
General Secretary