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இலங்கை உழைக்கும் ஊடகவியலாளர் சங்கம்  
**Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association**

Incorporated by Parliament Act No.46 in 1987/Trade Union Registration No 8528

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Press Release

## ATTEMPTS TO SUPPRESS JOURNALISTS UNDER ICCPR ACT

Sri Lanka Working Journalists Association (SLWJA) strongly condemns the attempts of the Organized Crime Division of Sri Lanka Police to take Kusal Perera who is a professional and well recognized journalist, engaged in journalism in both Sinhala and English media for a long time, into custody under the provisions of the ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) Act No. 56 of 2007, based on an article written by him to the Daily Mirror - "From Islamic Terrorism to marauding Sinhala Buddhist violence".

More over, we see that Police Officer's attempt to record statements from the Editors of Daily Mirror on the above article, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 is an un-official threat to the newspaper.

In the recent past, number of violations have been reported from various parts of the country and fake and baseless information submitted to journalists and media institutions by senior Police Officers (eg: Kurunegala Hospital case..) As we all are aware, Police have not reported a these incidents under the ICCPR Act and not produced a single person those who are responsible for such incidents including clergy. But we note that Police do not hesitate to report the journalists and media institutions who engaged in fair and impartial journalism, under the above Act.

SLWJA wish to remind that the President and the current Government came into power by promising to re-establish media freedom, and we strongly urge the relevant authorities to secure media freedom and stop harassing journalists anymore.

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