குரலற்றவர்களின் குரல்
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The Voice of the Voiceless

24/11/2023

HE President Ranil Wickramasinghe
Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka
Presidential Secretariat,
Colombo 01.

Through
Hon. Mrs.P.S.M.CHARLES
Governor,
Northern Province,
Jaffna.

Plea for Presidential Amnesty
S. Sathyaleela, Case No. HC/3861/07

This plea concerns a Tamil political prisoner, a mother of two, who is facing the death penalty after being released after 14 years in prison.

S. Sathyaleela, a mother of two residing at No. 6/3, Kannathiddi Road, Jaffna, had been detained as a Tamil political prisoner for 14 years in the Welikada prison and was released by the Colombo High Courts. However, because of the appeal made by the Attorney General's Department, the Court of Appeal sentenced the woman to death.

Sathyaleela, the head of the family and a pre-school teacher, was arrested under the Emergency Regulations on suspicion after the 2004 bomb attack on Hon. Minister Douglas Devananda. She was kept in the prison without bail and faced long court proceedings for about 14 years, and on January 14, 2018, the Colombo High Court sentenced her to 'a two-year rigorous imprisonment, suspended for 15 years and a fine of Rs. 25,000.00'. She was released after a ruling by the High Court on the abovementioned condition.

In this situation, the Attorney General, who was not satisfied with the judgement given by the High Court, objected to it and appealed to the Court of Appeal. Accordingly, the Appellate Court has sentenced Sathyaleela with the death penalty on January 23, 2023. Sathyaleela approached the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka as her last option. However, she has been trapped in poverty because of a lack of permanent income since her arrest in 2004, and she is even struggling to hire and pay a lawyer for herself.

As His Excellency the President, you are also believed to be considering other good efforts, including the release of Tamil political prisoners as a gesture of goodwill between the communities. At the same time, the state system's activities are in stark contrast.

This woman has been sentenced to death even though the minister involved in this case, Honourable Douglas Devananda, had openly stated in the open high court that he has no objection to the release of the suspect Sathyaleela from the case.

Now, Sathyaleela says, "after 14 years of separation from family, children, parents, relatives and suffering in prison, I cannot imagine going back to prison again in a worse situation as a death row prisoner even after being released by the High Court. For that, it is better to take my own life".

We, as an independent humanitarian organisation, humbly request His Excellency the President to take your generous steps to grant a general amnesty to Sathyaleela on humanitarian grounds and as a political decision.

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M.Komagan

The Organizer
The Voice of The Voiceless

இல.27, புதுமை மாதா கோவில் கிழக்கு வீதி, குருநகர், யாழ்ப்பாணம்.
අංක.27, පුදුමෙ මාථා කෝවිල් නැගෙනහිර පාර, කුරුනගර් , යාප්පනය.
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