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சிவமயம்

அகில இலங்கை இந்து மாமன்றம்
(இலங்கை இந்துமன்ற அமைப்புகளினதும் ஆலய நம்பிக்கை பொறுப்புகளினதும் ஒன்றியம்)
ALL CEYLON HINDU CONGRESS
(Federation of Hindu Religious Associations and Temple Trusts in Sri Lanka)

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**PRESS RELEASE CONDEMNING THE RECENT DEGRADING ACT OF CREMATING THE REMAINS
OF A BUDDHIST MONK WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE HOLY SEMMALAI NEERAVIYADI
PILLAYAR KOVIL IN MULLAITIVU**

The All Ceylon Hindu Congress being the Federation of Hindu Organisations in Sri Lanka vehemently and categorically condemns the recent degrading act of cremating the remains of a Buddhist Monk within the premises of the Holy Semmalai Neeraviyadi Pillayar Kovil in Mullaitivu, violating a Court Order not to carry out the said cremation within the compound of the said temple and despite the Court having identified a specific neighboring area which was considered the most suitable place to carry out the said cremation. It is also noted that there were crematoriums in the vicinity of the area.

Hindus consider it a sacrilege to cremate the remains of the deceased in the vicinity and within the places of worship and other places that they deem sacred.

We are also deeply shocked, disturbed and dismayed that a lawyer who requested a group of Buddhist Monks and their followers who were gathered there, not to conduct the said cremation in violation of the Court Order within the compound of the temple, was attacked and assaulted by Buddhist monks and their followers in the presence of the Police.

It is deeply regrettable that the Police have failed in their duty in upholding peace and harmony and protecting the citizens of this Country by assisting those violating the Court Order instead of implementing and upholding the said Court Order. The Police have also failed to take action for the said violation and have let down the people whom they are bound to serve and protect.

This incident clearly demonstrates the racial discrimination, marginalization and harassment faced by the minorities in particular the Hindus and Tamils since the independence of this Country.

In the recent past, we have condemned several attacks on Hindu Temples to which the Government and the Police have turned a blind eye and a deaf ear and failed to uphold the rule of law. Not only must Justice be done; it must also be seen to be done. Unfortunately, the Hindus and Tamils of this Country are yet to see such justice being done and in the absence of this it is pointless and meaningless to talk about reconciliation and hold meetings after meetings.

We wish to point out that such religious hatred cannot be tolerated and should not be allowed in this Country which has already seen a blood shed of Civil War. It is unfortunate that the same mistakes are again and again repeated and minority places of worship being attacked with the assistance of the security forces in an attempt to insult, humiliate and hurt the Hindus and Tamils of the Country.

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It has to be realised that no one including Buddhist Monks and the Police are above the law and that no one is immune from legal accountability to the Courts. The Police and relevant authorities must take full responsibility for the said incident. The perpetrators who have violated the Order of Court must be held accountable for Contempt of Court and punished and the authorities must take appropriate action to implement law and order.

It is the duty of the government and the security forces to take the sternest action to bring the culprits who commit such atrocities to justice and establish good governance and harmony amongst the people of this country.

It is also noted that the history of Hindus and Tamils are being systematically and surreptitiously erased using several state tools and that many places of worship of Hindus are being grabbed under the pretense and guise of "Archeology" and Buddhist Temples are instead being constructed in such places sacred to Hindus.

We urge the people of this Country to unite as one and stand against such atrocities and be vigilant.

The All Ceylon Hindu Congress will most strongly stand against any such atrocities against Hindus and urge the Government and the authorities to take immediate action against the perpetrators and protect the fundamental rights of the minorities.

M. Thavayogarajah
President

V. Kandasamy
General Secretary

ALL CEYLON HINDU CONGRESS
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