

18.01.2021

His Excellency the President
Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa
Presidential Residence
Colombo

**Request by the Religious heads in the North to give amnesty
to the Political Prisoners who are in the different jails in Sri Lanka**

Your Excellency!

We, on behalf of the different (Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim and Christian) heads make a sincere appeal to you to grant a General Amnesty and release all the political prisoners.

The parents, wives, children and the near and dear ones have approached us with tears and requested us to somehow or other to get them released. We are deeply moved by their tears and depressed state.

Some of these prisoners are there for 8 to 10 years without their cases being taken up, while others are there for more the 10 to 15 years. Some children have their parents removed from their families when they were mere toddlers. They also have no means to support their families.

More than ever before in the midst of the rapid spread of the Corona Virus pandemic and more than 4000 victims in the prisons cluster and 16 victims among the political prisoners they are dismayed and depressed.

When one section of the population, however small it may be, is undergoing extreme hardship and depression the rest of the population cannot be indifferent.

We hear everyday number of prisoners who are serving long sentences and even life-imprisonment and death sentences being released. We are saddened to note that these unfortunate political prisoners do not enjoy any of these benefits.

We feel sincerely that these political prisoners once released will not be of any harm to the society. They will be grateful along with their families and get into the mainstream of the society. Amnesty to them we feel will help a great deal in the process of peace and reconciliation in our Country.

We look forward to a favourable response from your Excellency.

May God bless you, your work and our country.

We remain,