**English translation of the complaint made to the Human Rights Commission – Batticaloa dated 16-12-2021.**

The Commissioner,

Human Rights Commission,

Batticaloa.

16-12-2021.

**A complaint in respect of the violence perpetrated at the Badulla Prison.**

Nine persons from those arrested in respect of the past April 21st attacks and detained were transferred from Batticaloa prison to Badulla prison on 07-12-2019. They have been in remand custody for over 30 months. On 10-12-2021, at the time of distribution of dinner, due to the sudden brutal attacks by fellow prisoners, 4 prisoners sustained severe injuries and had been admitted to hospital and were treated for 5 days. As soon as we heard of this, we complained to the Human Rights Commission but were told no violence as such had taken place and that all are in good health. Further, when we telephoned to Badulla prison and inquired we were told there was nothing of that sort and they all are keeping fine. However, yesterday, Wednesday when we visited and saw them, we were shocked and became sad. Out of those 4 injured one’s jaw had been broken and he had undergone surgery. Another had been in the Emergency Unit due to the heavy blow received on his head that needed 13 stitches to be treated. The tissues in the hands had been torn and received severe blows in the stomachs of the other two prisoners. When the others had scampered due to the surprise attacks a prisoner who suffers from cancer had fainted and fallen down and injured his knee and had been admitted to the hospital and received treatment for two days. The other three had narrowly escaped being attacked having run and hidden themselves. They are not even willing to reveal who carried out these and are in terrible fear and traumatised.

Therefore, we humbly appeal to you to take steps to expedite the case against these prisoners and release those found innocent, until then to transfer these prisoners to another prison, to ensure their safety and to take legal action against the other prisoners who carried out these terrorising and life-threatening attacks,

Yours faithfully,

Relatives of the affected prisoners.