



SRI LANKA POLICE INSPECTORS' ASSOCIATION

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My No. : **SLPIA/Out/184/19**

Your No. :

Dr. Deepika Udagama
Chairperson
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

30th September 2019

Madam,

Re: the Human Rights Vetting Process of Contingents Deploy on UN Peacekeeping Missions

We make reference to your Press Release dated 29th August 2019 related to the above noted subject.

Executive Committee of Sri Lanka Police Inspectors Association (ExCo/SLPIA) presents its complement to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL) for its contributions and efforts of conducting vetting process & issue clearance for security personals to be deployed in United Nations Peace Keeping missions and to adopt a SOP for the same.

Sri Lanka Police Inspectors Association is an institution which was established in 1945 mandating it 'To protect, promote and safeguard the interest & welfare of its members as a body' {Article 02(1) of the constitution of SLPIA}.

It is credibly learnt that the HRCSL has been conducting the Clearance Process of the Sri Lankan Security Forces since 2016.

The outcome of the Press release indicate that a total of 632 Officers from 06 Groups have been deployed for the Peace Keeping Missions and we strongly believe that none of the Police Officers from the Sri Lanka Police were included along with said number of Officers which surfaces that the Report has muted about the Police Officers.

It is fitting mention here, that unlike the Military contingents where they have no time bar of deploying in the field missions, the Individual Police Officers (United Nations Police Officers – UNPOL) deployed to serve in the United Nations Peace Keeping Missions has a 'time bar' for the period of 02 years from the date of selection where lapsing the same will automatically disqualify them from the process.

Further, those Police Officers selected were subject to rigorous selection process termed as 'Combined Language Assessment (CLA)' followed by Driving Assessment and Fire Arm Handling Tests and further filtered by a 'one to one' Interview Board Process before the final selection. As per the SOP of United Nations, the CLA is only valued for two years.

It may be noted that, prior to CLA, Sri Lanka Police will conduct pre-selection process to select qualified Police officers in which, in addition to language assessments, the officers are called for their 'Blemished Records' for throughout the service having referred to 'court cases; disciplinary cases (fall under Schedule 1 of Establishment Code); human right violations, against such officer (pending and or previous). Hence, it is noteworthy to state that those officers, who are selected by CLA, have been checked for those of required by UN.

Since the selected Police Officers have a 'time bar' of deployment, it is of paramount importance that the Vetting Process have to be concluded ahead of the 'time bar'. Failure to submit clearance during the said time frame will negate the opportunity of Sri Lanka Police as UN will fill the vacancies from another member country.

It is sadly noted, in reference to the Vetting Process 13 Police Officers whose clearance have been issued very recently by your good office which was way after the lapsing the 'time bar' and they lost their opportunity due to this procedural impropriety where it has caused irreparable loss to the Sri Lanka Police and to the economy of Sri Lanka at large.

It is fit to note that, once an officer is selected through CLA, he/she is legitimately entitled for an opportunity to serve in an UN Peacekeeping mission in which, it is further guaranteed by the Article 14 (1)(g) of the Constitution of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. Henceforth, ExCo/SLPIA believes that HRCSL will uphold and respect the Fundamental Rights of those Police officers who were selected.

Before conclusion, we wish to reiterate the fact that the 69 Officers who were selected in April 2019 are yet to receive their Humans Rights Clearance. In that context, great emphasis made that, their Vetting Process may be expedited in order to avoid further losing the opportunity of Sri Lanka Police representation to serve in the UN Peace Keeping Mission as well as to enhance the economy of Sri Lanka.

In the light of the above, I most respectfully request to grant a date and time for a discussions on the above matter at earliest convenience will be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Sri Lanka Police Inspectors' Association,



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Attorney-at-Law, LL.B (Hons).
Inspector of Police,
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Copies to:-

- 1) His Excellency the President
- 2) Secretary, Ministry of Defence (Attn: Ms. M.S.D. Sooriyapperuma, Senior Asst. Secretary – Police Section)
- 3) Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs (Attn: Director, UN & HR Division)
- 4) Inspector General of Police
- 5) DIG /Training, Recruitment & International Affairs.