

Trade Union Newsletter

April 2021

Struggles Sri Lanka

Reporters without Borders have condemned the arrest and assault on a Journalist Malika Abeykoon while he was covering a protest march organized by a Health Workers Union on Wednesday 7th of April. Attacks for Journalists continue in Sri Lanka.

Under the 'Prevention of terrorism act', the Jaffna Mayor was arrested and released on bail. His crime? – Issuing uniform for municipal workforce that resembled that of LTTE police force.

21 railway Trade Union had called for strike for 9th April but was postponed.

90% of workers Ceylon Electric Board called in sick on 9th of April as a protest for inadequate pay.

Minister of Plantations, Ramesh Pathirana stated government has agreed a measly RS 1000 (£3.66) per day for the Plantation Workers after years of struggle. This won't provide decent living standards with growing inflation.



The UK sponsored resolution at UNHRC was passed. This falls well short of the demand of the Tamil

people for an international Investigation of war crimes against the Tamils by the state.

Struggles in Britain

[In the name of diplomatic immunity](#) the High Court overturned the verdict from Westminster court that ruled that Sri Lankan military commander did not have diplomatic immunity from prosecution for gesturing dead threat to Tamil protesters in British soil.



A [Tamil woman went on hunger strike](#) demanding the British government to push for an international investigation.

[Metropolitan police heavy handedly arrested](#) and dispersed Tamil protesters in London who had peacefully gather to support the hunger strike.

Solidarity protest was held against the arrest of Jaffna Mayor, in front of Sri Lankan Embassy.

[Tamil Solidarity supports housing day of action](#). Join us on Saturday 17th April on day of action on housing demanding, "Stop the evictions! Drop the debts".



Join the Union Campaign

Tamil Solidarity has an ongoing campaign to engage and unionize workers. We are ready to help mobilise and unionise workers from BAME section of the community in Britain. We can do that by strengthening our links and working closely with unions.

What we can offer:

We are able to provide support by providing language support if required.

We have Tamil and English material available explaining importance of joining a union. We use this in protests or strikes we attend to engage with workers. Please contact affiliate@tamilsolidarity.org for a copy.

How you can help:

In Sri Lanka, Free Zone Trade workers are continually denied the right to join a union. We want to build platform for the workers to fight for their right to join a Union.

We want to encourage and increase unionization of the worker in Northern Sri Lanka.

We also want build Independent trade Union in Sri Lanka.

For all this we want your solidarity and finance support. You can affiliate with us and share our resolution with other branches and regions to affiliate with us and further strengthen our links. Payment and affiliation details are below. If you have any queries or wish to have a speaker from our campaign please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours in solidarity,

Bharathi
Trade union coordinator

Bharathi@tamilsolidarity.org

07932027202

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| <p><i>Affiliation details are:</i> <i>£50 per branch (or similar sized body)</i></p> <p><i>£100-£150 per district/region/group</i></p> <p><i>£250 for national union body.</i></p> | <p>Payee Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Payee name: Tamil Solidarity• Account number: 20231862• Sort code: 60 83 01 <p><i>Cheques to:</i> 205, Well Street, London, E96QU Email - affiliate@tamilsolidarity.org Phone 07932027202 Visit www.tamilsolidarity.org</p> |
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