

COMMITTEE FOR PROTECTING RIGHTS OF PRISONERS (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

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URGENT SITUATION REPORT:

SYSTEMIC RETALIATORY TORTURE, ASSAULT, AND REPORTED IN-CUSTODY DEATH OF TRANSFERRED NEGOMBO PRISON INMATES

Date of Report: 8th July 2026

Time of Compilation: 08:30 hrs

Reporting Entity: Committee for Protecting the Rights of Prisoners (CPRP)

Status: CRITICAL / IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION REQUIRED

This report compiles verified, real-time field information regarding severe fundamental rights violations, systematic torture, an alleged custodial killing, and **active destruction of physical evidence** targeting inmates transferred out of Negombo Prison. Retaliatory violence by prison staff has resulted in at least one confirmed fatality at Boossa Prison, Welikada Prison and severe injuries at Angunakolapelessa Prison, where officials are currently caught actively sanitizing crime scenes to destroy evidence of physical abuse.

The current crisis stems from deep-seated, systemic issues within the Negombo Prison, including chronic overcrowding and drug-related unrest. Following the intense clashes on July 5th and 6th, which resulted in the tragic deaths of 7 prison officers and 20 inmates, alongside hundreds injured the Department of Prisons initiated a mass transfer of Negombo inmates to various facilities across the island.

Since the night of 6th July 2026, these transferred inmates have been subjected to systematic, state-sponsored retaliatory violence under the pretense of "restoring order." Relatives of these detainees are currently in a state of extreme distress, completely blocked from locating their loved ones or ascertaining their medical conditions.

A.Verified Incident Log (As of July 8, 2026, 08:30 hrs)

Boossa Prison : Media has officially confirmed the first death of an inmate transferred from Negombo to Boossa Prison. While the Prisons Media Spokesperson, A.C. Gajanayake, has claimed the inmate died at the Karapitiya Teaching Hospital following a "sudden illness," this pattern aligns precisely with our field reports of severe custodial trauma being covered up as medical emergencies.

Welikada Prison (Custodial Death & Cover-up): 21 inmates transferred from Negombo were brutally assaulted inside a transport bus while in the Welikada Prison Hospital premises. One inmate, identified as Avishka (Ward 09 - Negombo Prison), succumbed to the beatings and was killed. Field sources confirm that prison authorities are actively staging a suicide scene by placing a cloth strip around the deceased's neck to frame the murder as a hanging.

Angunakolapelessa Prison (Forensic Destruction): Brutal, retaliatory assaults have left multiple transferred inmates with broken limbs/legs and deep lacerations to their backs. Sources confirm that complicit prison officers are currently engaged in a deliberate campaign to wash away bloodstains and sanitize these cells to destroy forensic evidence of their crimes.

Pallekele Prison & National Escalation: Parallel reports confirm that inmates transferred to Pallekele Prison are experiencing identical patterns of systematic physical abuse. The cycle of provocation caused by these torture campaigns threatens to ignite a catastrophic wave of unrest across the entire national prison system.

B. Immediate Humanitarian & Legal Demands

Our primary, uncompromising focus is to prevent further loss of life through state-sponsored torture and acute medical neglect. We demand the following actions be executed immediately:

Preservation of Life and Emergency Medical Access: Provide immediate, independent medical triage for all tortured inmates across all receiving facilities, particularly those suffering from untreated gunshot wounds, internal bleeding, and broken limbs resulting from the July 6th–8th violence.

Immediate Forensic Preservation: Force an immediate freeze on all cleaning, washing, or sanitization activities at Angunakolapelessa, Welikada, and Boossa Prisons to preserve blood, DNA, and physical evidence of torture before it is completely erased.

Immediate Post-Mortem Examinations: Order independent, transparent autopsies conducted by a Judicial Medical Officer (JMO) for both the deceased inmate Avishka (Welikada) and the unnamed inmate who died after transfer to Boossa, to challenge fabricated "sudden illness" or "suicide" narratives.

C. Proposed Special Protection Mechanism

Given the absolute failure of the prison administration to protect individuals within its custody, we propose the immediate implementation of a Special Protection Protocol:

Consolidation Under Strict Judicial Custody: All remaining inmates transferred out of Negombo Prison must be immediately consolidated into a designated secure facility under strict judicial custody.

Senior Accountability: This facility must be placed under the direct, personal protection of a senior prison official who is held personally and legally accountable directly to the Ministry of Justice, rather than regional administrations.

Institutional Assistance Framework: To ensure absolute transparency and verify the physical integrity of all detainees, the HRCSL—in exercising its NPM mandate—must be actively assisted and accompanied by independent bodies, specifically the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and United Nations (UN) representatives.

Mandatory 24-Hour Unrestricted Monitoring Access: We call for the immediate enforcement of a permanent, 24-hour unrestricted access window for the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), acting in its official capacity as Sri Lanka's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) under the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT).

Publication of Official Manifests: Compel the Department of Prisons to immediately publish the complete, official transfer name lists, accounting for the exact physical location, ward number, and current medical status of every single individual moved out of Negombo Prison to eliminate any possibility of forced disappearances.

D. Legal and Constitutional Violations

The actions documented above constitute severe, direct violations of domestic and international law, including:

1. **Article 11 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka:** Absolute freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.
2. **The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act No. 21 of 1996:** Which mandates unhindered access for the Commission to any place of detention. Denying entry is an unlawful obstruction of state powers.
3. **The Convention Against Torture (CAT) Act No. 22 of 1994:** Actively criminalizing state-sponsored torture and custodial negligence.

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