



Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum

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Press Release

The Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum registers its strong protest over the government's plans to re-introduce the Criminal Defamation law.

We believe that this attempt to re-introduce this draconian law, which was repealed several years ago is an attempt to place further constraints on journalists, editors and media institutions.

As media representatives of a minority community we consider this move as being one more method to curtail the freedom of journalists, who are carrying out their professional duties despite the very many threats they have received to their personal safety.

The criminal defamation law which was introduced to Sri Lanka during colonial rule was repealed in 2002, following protests from the media. Until that time, successive governments used this law in varying degrees to repress the media. The repealing of the law in 2002 saw the introduction of more democratic practices for the media. The establishment of the Press Complaints Commission of Sri Lanka was one such step. Indeed, what is essential today is not a re-introduction of such archaic laws but moves that would strengthen the systems of self-regulation.

A government which came to power on the promise of strengthening media freedom, and which continues to claim that there is no obstruction to freedom of expression under its rule, will, by this move only add to the already perceived idea that it is hostile to the press.

While the Sri Lanka Muslim Media Forum calls on the government to unconditionally re consider this step, we also appeal to all democratic forces to come together and protest the re imposition of this law. We also pledge our support to all those who stand up against this move.

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Thaha M. Muzammil
General Secretary



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Kj yht j hf> , yj j pud pay; C l f j j hhd; 'kd f;Fi w" gwwpa j qfs; fUj ;J fF gj py;\$w Ntz bAssJ. vkJ mi kggpy; 500f;Fk; rwW mj pfkhd mqfj j t h;fs; cssdh; , j py; , yj j pud pay; C l f k; rhheNj hh; Fi wej vz z pfi faxd Nu. Vi da mi d t Uk; mrR C l f k; rhheNj huht H. MapDk;\$l , yj j pud pay; rhheNj hUf;Fk; chpa Kf;fpaj ;J t Kk; rk mej] ;K; ms p f ; f g g l ; L t U t i j m O j j k ; j p U j j k h f j ; nj hpt g j ; J f ; n f h s ; f p N w h k ;

t Ul hej c j j pNahfj; nj hpt pd NghJ > , yj j pud pay; rhhej gyh; Nghl bapLf pd wd h; xUrpyh; nj hpt hf pd wd h; Nj hj y; xd w pd ; %yNk , j nj hpT fs; ei l ngwWf pd wd . Nj hj ypy; nt wwp ngwhj , yj j pud pay; C l f t payhs h;fs;py; rpyUk; vkJ Nghuj j pd; rl ; j pl ; j qfS ffi ka ji yt upd; t pNrl mj pfhuj j pd; %yk; eht hff; FOt py; epakp;f;fggl ;L Kf;fpaj gj t p f S k; t oq;fggl ;L s s d . fUj j uq;Ffs> nraykh;Tfs> , yj j pud pay; gapwrrp t FgGfs; Nghd wt wwp y; , t h;fS f;F mj pK f;fpaj ;J t k; ms p f ; f g g l ; f p w J . vd Nt , t h;fs J Kf;fpaj ;J t k; Fi w f ; f g g l ; f p w J m y y J k O q f b f ; f g g l ; f p w J v d g J j t w h d \$ w w h F k ; , k ; K i w (2 0 0 7) e i l n g w w N j h j y p y ; , yj j pud pay; rhhej xUt Nu nghUshsuhf nj hpt hd hh; vd gJ k; epi d t pw; nfhs;sjj ffJ. , J j t p , yj j pud pay; C l f t payhs h;fs; gyh; K] ypk; klah Nghuj j pd; MNyh r f h ; f s h f T k ; epakp;f;fggl ;L s s d h ;



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, uz jhtjh> C lfk; nj hl hghd fUjj uqFfs> nraykh;Tfs> gapwrp t FgGfS fF ji yefi u i kakhffnfhz jthfS fF kl;LNk rej hggk; ms pf;fggLfwnj d.w \$wWk; j twhdJ. , wi wti u 25fFk; Nkwgl j nraykh;Tfi s , yqi fal qfYk; el hj jAsNshk;. , twWs; 90 t j khdi t gpuhej paqfs;NyNa el hj jgg l d vd gJk; <z ;L Fwggpl j j ffJ. cj huz j j wF fy;Ki z > fhj jhd;Fb> Vwht #> %JhH> j pUNfhz ki y> j kghs> Nguhnj dpa> kht dyi y> fz z jNj hl i l > mS jfk> Gj j sk> f` l NI ht pl j Nghd w , l qfs; rpy thFk;. , J j t pu> K] ypk; klbah Nghuj j pd; Gyi kgguprpy;fs> mNdfkhf> mi dj ;JNk gpuhej pa C l ft payhsHfS fNf toqfggLf pd wd vd gJ Tk; , qF Fwggpl j j ffJ.

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Vi da cqfsJ fUj ;J f fS fF nrt prhaggNj hL vkJ fl gg h i l ehk; cz he;J nrawgLNthk; vdW \$wpf; nfhs;S k; mNj Nti s nj spT f;fhf , t;t ps f f j i j g; gpuRupf;FkhWk; Nf l ;Lfnfhs;fpNwhk;

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