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Professor Dinithi Fernando

Professor Kamani Wanigasuriya

Representatives from other colleges

Dr Navoda Atapattu

Dr Manjula Dissanayake

Dr Chathurie Suraweera

Dr Manu Wimalachandra

11.03.2025

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake

President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Presidential Secretariat

Galle Face

Colombo 01

Your Excellency,

Subject: Condemnation of the Assault on a Lady Doctor at Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital and Urgent Call for Enhanced Safety Measures

I write to you with profound sorrow and indignation as the President of the Ceylon College of Physicians, representing the medical fraternity of our nation. The recent heinous assault on a lady doctor within the premises of Anuradhapura Teaching Hospital has sent shockwaves throughout the medical community and the nation at large.

This deplorable incident not only violates the sanctity of a medical institution but also undermines the safety and morale of healthcare professionals who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is deeply concerning that such an atrocity could occur within a hospital environment, a place that should epitomize safety and care.

In light of this tragic event, we earnestly urge Your Excellency to:

1. Ensure swift justice
Direct the relevant authorities to expedite investigations and judicial proceedings to bring the perpetrator(s) to justice promptly, reinforcing trust in our legal system.
2. Enhance security measures
Mandate the implementation of comprehensive security protocols across all hospitals, including:
 - 24/7 surveillance systems
 - Adequate lighting in and around hospital premises
 - Deployment of trained security personnel
 - Controlled access to sensitive areas such as doctors' quarters and on-call rooms
 - Form a dedicated task force comprising representatives from the Ministry of Health, hospital administrations, law enforcement agencies, and medical professional bodies to assess and reinforce the safety of healthcare workers nationwide.
3. Take urgent and meaningful legal action against perpetrators of similar crimes against any woman in the society to deter others from engaging in such crimes.



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The medical profession has faced previous instances of workplace violence, underscoring the urgency for systemic changes to protect our healthcare providers.

We trust that Your Excellency's administration will treat this matter with the utmost seriousness it warrants, ensuring that our hospitals remain sanctuaries of healing and safety. The Ceylon College of Physicians stands ready to collaborate with the government in formulating and implementing policies to safeguard our medical professionals.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Prasad Katulanda
President
Ceylon College of Physicians

Cc:

Hon. Harini Amarasuriya, Prime Minister

Hon. Harshana Nanayakkara, Minister of Justice

Hon. Nalinda Jayatissa, Minister of Health and Mass Media

Acting IGP, Priyantha Weerasooriya

Dr Anil Jasinghe, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Mass Media

Dr Asela Gunawardena, Director General of Health Services

Dr Sanjewa Thennakoon, President, GMOA