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சுதந்திரமானதும் நீதியானதுமான தேர்தல்களுக்கான மக்கள் செயற்பாடு.

PEOPLE'S ACTION FOR FREE & FAIR ELECTIONS

Secretary,
Ministry of Law and Order

18/11/2014

Inspector General of Police

Dear Sir,

Ad hoc transfer of police officers ahead of a National Election

The entire country has witnessed preparations for a National Election during the past few months though it has not been declared officially. We hope that you are aware of these developments.

Statements by government activists bear testimony to it. Also, it is visible from the initiatives by the opposition and the Election Department and various institutions are involved in conducting an election. Yet, the roles of the Election Department and the Police Department are fundamental in this exercise.

The honest, impartial and straight forward discharge of duties by police officers is detrimental to a free and fair election. As a former Inspector General of Police, we believe you have a better understanding in this regard.

Despite all that, we learnt from various reports that 75 police officers have been transferred on an ad hoc basis even without the approval of the present Inspector General of Police during the past few weeks (October 28, November 8,9,and 14).

The police should act with straight forwardness and impartiality during elections. It is equally important for the police service to keep public confidence intact. This seems to be a difficult task to perform under the current political culture that has plagued our country for decades. Yet, for the upholding of democratic rights of 15 million voters, your impartial, candid discharge of duties is of paramount importance.

We believe you will act according to your conscience during the proposed snap presidential election.

Yours Sincerely


Rohana Hettiarachchi
Executive Director

Copied to Election Commissioner and all others concerned