Minister Tilak Marapana

Sir, Baron Jayatilaka Mawatha,

Colombo 00100

Sri Lanka

Dear Minister Tilak Marapana,

I am writing to urge you to stop the deportation of a Pakistani Christian family, who have been arrested and are being kept at the refugee centre in Mirihana for overstaying their visas. Naseem John, Nida John, Nobil Zain, Sylvester John, Hina Milword and Keshwan Milword fled serious threats to their lives in Pakistan and were forced to seek sanctuary in Sri Lanka.

In addition to the trauma faced in their home country, the family had to endure the trauma of being displaced by violent mobs following the Easter Sunday attacks from their home in Dalupotha. They are currently being kept in poor conditions and the youngest member of the family has been separated from his mother because of the segregation in camps. I ask you to ensure that they have a safe place to stay, with access to food and medicine.

I urge you to stop the deportation of this family and ensure that there is a fair process before a deportation, to properly evaluate the threat that these families might be exposed to upon return. No one should be forcibly returned to a country where they are at risk of serious human rights violations.

Yours sincerely,