



International Domestic Workers Federation

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The IDWF is affiliated to the IUF and WIEGO



June 14, 2023

Hon Mr. Dinesh Gunawardena

The Prime Minister
The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Topic: Justice for Raja Kumari, Stop all Forms of Violence and Abuse to Domestic Workers

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We have been extremely disturbed and indignant by the news of Ms. Raja Kumari, a woman and a domestic worker, died in police custody after being severely beaten during her detention in early May this year. Despite repeated calls and demands for investigation in society, including those from the PROTECT and Domestic Workers Union, representative voice of domestic workers in your country and affiliates of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) no development is in sight. Furthermore, we are shocked to learn that when Ms. Raja Kumari's husband gave a statement at court, received life threat.

The IDWF is a global federation of domestic workers, consisting of 88 domestic workers trade unions and other organizations in 68 countries including Sri Lanka. From the information we have gathered, there is close connection between what Ms. Raja Kumari had experienced during her custody and her death. We believe this case is not isolated. Domestic workers are used to suffering from all forms of discrimination and abusive treatment face huge justice problem. This is true in Sri Lanka and many places in the world. This time, both the domestic workers in your country and everywhere determine that we will not let go of this case. Justice must prevail for Raja and for all.

We strongly urge you to take immediate action to ensure a thorough and time bounded investigation into the case including the steadfast execution of the Magistrate order for the CCTU footage, the lawyer demand for records of the National Hospital. We further urge you to hold dialogue meetings with the Domestic Workers Union and the PROTECT for a formidable solution to the case.

We look forward to hearing concrete steps being taken so that justice prevails for Raja and all domestic workers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Tang', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Tang
General Secretary