

Minister Tilak Marapana
Sir, Baron Jayatilaka Mawatha,
Colombo 00100
Sri Lanka
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Dear Minister Tilak Marapana,

I am writing to urge you to stop the deportation of a Pakistani Christian family from Sri Lanka, who have been arrested and are being kept at the refugee centre in Mirihana for overstaying their visas. Naseem John, Nida John, Nabil 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 terrible conditions, where the youngest member of the family has been separated from his mother because of the segregation in camps

The John family should not be deported to Pakistan where more harm awaits them. I ask you to ensure that they have a safe place to stay with access to food and medicine.

There must be 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,