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UNIVERSITY OF RUHUNA

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துணைவேந்தர் அலுவலகம்

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

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WELLAMADAMA,

14.02.2023

Message for all the students and staff

This is regarding the proposed or planned FUTA and IUSF trade union action demanding the removal of the Vice Chancellor scheduled to be held on 15.02.2023. I am sending this message to educate all of you regarding the current status of the police investigation.

The police complaint was made by Mr. Rohan Laksiri stating that there is a life threat to him and there was an attempt to kill him by a poisonous gas attack in his room. It is my duty to fully facilitate and cooperate with the police investigation as VC. This was done. I also started to Matara police last week about the incident. Before recording my statement, the crime police officer read out the statement of Mr. Laksiri to me. There is no allegation against me or naming me as a suspect in this alleged attack. The fact reporting through a B report to Magistrate was done by Matara Police on Monday 13.2.2023. I was physically present in the Magistrate court. **I was represented by a private lawyer. The MC permitted me to get a Government analyst report and did not order to remand me. I am not even an accused or a suspect yet in this case. As promised to all of you I did not hide and went to the courts to face any eventuality.**

The constitution of Sri Lanka states under fundamental rights with regard to the judiciary.

13.3 Every person is innocent until proven guilty and

13.5 In criminal proceedings a criminal offense should be proven beyond any reasonable doubt.

In this scenario, I am denied both the above rights guaranteed by the constitution of Sri Lanka by FUTA.

The FUTA has declared the following.

1. A poisonous gas attack was carried out in the room of Mr. R Laksiri with an intention of killing him. (To be proven by an investigation by police)
2. It was carried out by me (To be proven beyond any reasonable doubt)
3. It has convicted me of the offense in their press briefings (FUTA decision)

4. Decided that, I should be remanded immediately and sacked from the post (punishment by FUTA).

This is a Kangaroo court proceeding that was practiced in some countries Cambodia (POLPOT) and political and terrorist organizations in Sri Lanka in the past. However, the very same FUTA did not even condemn the attack on Prof Athula Senaratna former VC UOPeradeniya, and take any action when there was digital evidence of the attack and injuries on his son. To the best of my knowledge, he is a member of a sister union of FUTA in UOP. This behavior needs an explanation from FUTA.

A story

In August last year, CID rang me to confirm that a person caught on CCTV evidence as a suspect in a case of setting a house of a politician on fire on 9.5.2022 was a student. I confirmed him to be a first-year student of the Faculty of Management. He was a student registered for FMF after 2020 AL. These criminal activities come behind you.

The FUTA and IUSF have planned to visit UOR and protest against me for the above charges made by them and not by the police or Attorney General's department. They are planning to invade the UOR VC office, chase me out physically, or by pulling me out and throw me out of the office.

A VC could be removed from office for three reasons by HE the President

1. Fraud
2. Insanity
3. Medical unfitness.

If these are there, the UGC could submit a report to HE and request to remove me from the office. If he does, I will leave. I believe that I do not belong to any one of the above groups.

Your next worry would be who will be my replacement. The President could appoint an Acting Vice-Chancellor or a competent authority. It is his choice. That replacement could be an academic or even a military officer as a competent authority like the "Aragalaya" ended up in 2022. Most certainly it will not be your choice. Some of these leaders of teacher associations do not let even the members of their own unions have meetings with them but claim to be democratic much more than me. They expect to become competent authorities with my removal with the support of political parties.

I request my staff and students understand this situation and take responsibility for their behavior. It was a teacher who asked ANGULIMALA to kill people. Fortunately, he got caught by lord Buddha and not by the police force of the King. If he was caught by the police he would have been killed. Therefore behave responsibly.

There are teachers who have had problems related to discipline, work ethics, research, teaching, and examinations playing active roles in this RUTA fight against VC. There are also political elements and forces who want to fight me as an administrator. They want to return to an anarchist regime that prevailed before 2019 controlled by political forces behind the student movement and IUSF to take students to roads to capture political power in the country. You will die for others to enjoy political power if they succeed.

One of the best scenes I saw yesterday during the protest was the students going for their lectures against the traffic going for the protests on the same road in the university. This would not have been possible before 2019.

I am no longer prepared to explain in detail these political issues anymore. I request all the students to save yourselves and their own education in UOR. It appears that IUSF thuggery is taking over the administration in UOR over properly appointed administration and kangaroo courts are taking over this country's administration. If so, you will face the consequences.

I have requested the assistance of the Police tomorrow to control the situation in advance. There is a good CCTV surveillance system in UOR and hence I advise all students and staff members to avoid committing criminal offenses destroying UOR property or harming people. Those crimes will come behind you. I will try to protect the property of UOR and the lives of staff tomorrow. But I may fail, but I will not fail if you do not participate.

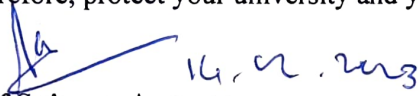
At the moment, FOM, FAHS, FMF, FMST, FGS, and FOT six out of 10 faculties have indicated their non-participation in the strike. Only HSS and FOS have indicated their participation. FOE and FOA have not written to me yet. You could see the realization of truth by some unions now. Therefore, people are understanding that it is an unfair demand for the above reasons. Please do not become a victim of someone else's politics. If there is a death it might be you who will die or you might be accused of killing. Please do not expect large crowds from other universities tomorrow. They know the truth.

I have always worked for the protection of the rights of education of students and the dignity of staff. I always stood for discipline and good work ethics. Please do not get fooled by a few people who are affected by the implementation of law and order inside the University of Ruhuna.

Young people demanded law and order in “Aragalaya” and these elements who participated in this “Aragalaya” ass your leaders then are exposing themselves now.

I am scheduled to leave anyway on 8.3.2025 but I can leave at any time. I do not have hidden skeletons.

Therefore, protect your university and your education.


Prof Sujeewa Amarasena
14.02.2021 (5.15 pm)

Professor Sujeewa Amarasena
(MBBS, MD, DCH(Col), DCH(Sydney))
Vice-Chancellor
University of Ruhuna
Matara - Sri Lanka