

06th June 2026

The Inspector General of Police
PoliceHeadquarters
Colombo, Sri Lanka

Dear Sir,

URGENT COMPLAINT REQUESTING AN IMMEDIATE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALLEGED TORTURE, CRUEL, INHUMAN, AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OF MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) SURESH SALLAY WHILE IN CID CUSTODY

We write to formally lodge an urgent complaint concerning the treatment of my husband, Major General (Retd.) Suresh Sallay, while in the custody of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). We request that you immediately commence an independent criminal investigation into serious allegations of torture, cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment, abuse of authority, denial of medical care, and other potential criminal offences committed against him while in state custody.

The information set out below was conveyed directly by my husband during a weekly family visit on 6 June 2026 to my son and my husband's brother, and it raises grave concerns regarding his safety, health, dignity, and fundamental rights.

1. Commencement of a Fast Unto Death

My husband informed the family that he has commenced a "Fast Unto Death." He stated that he can no longer endure the continuous mental torture, degrading treatment, and systemic unfairness that he has been subjected to while in custody.

He further stated that he remains confident that the pending writ proceedings will ultimately establish his innocence, and he has instructed his legal representatives to continue all legal action even in the event of his death.

Given the serious risk to his life created by this development, immediate intervention is required.

2. Alleged Denial of Medical Treatment and Inhumane Conditions of Detention

My husband stated today that, despite directions issued by the Judicial Medical Officer (JMO), the authorities have failed and/or refused to provide him with prescribed medication and recommended dietary requirements.

He further reports that:

- He is confined to an approximately 6-foot-by-4-foot cell 24/7.

- The cell contains no table, chair, bed, plate, or other basic furniture.
- Meals are served on a piece of paper placed directly on the floor.
- The food provided is grossly inadequate and of poor quality. He specifically mentioned to my son today that yesterday evening he was given some rice and rotten radish served on a piece of paper.
- Due to the absence of any furniture or eating facilities, he is compelled to consume his food while lying on the floor.
- He is denied access to washroom facilities after 10:00 p.m., resulting in severe constipation and associated physical suffering.
- He has allegedly suffered significant pain and physical complications as a result of these conditions. This is clearly proven by the report issued by the JMO, which is annexed hereto for your perusal.

I say with conviction that these allegations constitute serious violations of custodial standards and may amount to criminal misconduct.

3. Allegations of Physical Abuse, Humiliation, and Degrading Treatment

My husband has alleged that he was subjected to a humiliating strip search in the presence of other detainees, during which he was compelled to remove all clothing, including his underwear.

He further alleges that improper and invasive physical contact occurred during this process, causing significant physical discomfort.

Importantly, he has informed the family that the detention area is monitored by approximately eight CCTV cameras, all of which were operational at the relevant time and would have captured the events complained of.

These allegations require an immediate and independent investigation.

4. Eyewitness Evidence

My husband has specifically requested that statements be obtained from his current and former cellmates who witnessed the treatment he was subjected to, particularly during the period approximately seven days after his arrest.

These witnesses may possess direct evidence relevant to the allegations raised herein and should be identified and interviewed without delay.

5. Excessive Surveillance and Psychological Pressure

My husband has further reported that:

- Family visits are conducted under intense surveillance.
- During the most recent visit, approximately seven officers were present in the visitation room.
- Cell lights remain switched on continuously, twenty-four hours a day.

These circumstances may constitute additional forms of psychological pressure and mistreatment and should be examined as part of the investigation.

6. Visible Physical and Psychological Deterioration

During the visit on 6th June 2026, family members who visited my husband observed a marked deterioration in his physical appearance and psychological condition.

They observed, among other matters:

- Severely parched lips;
- Sunken eyes;
- Visible weakness and frailty; and
- A significantly depressed emotional state.

These observations are consistent with an individual experiencing severe distress and require an urgent medical assessment.

7. Prolonged Detention and Lack of Active Investigation

My husband has now reportedly been held in CID custody for more than one hundred days. Despite this prolonged detention, he states that he has only been taken for questioning or statement recording on approximately 10 to 11 occasions, and he has not been questioned at all for at least the last three weeks.

This raises serious concerns regarding the necessity and proportionality of his continued detention, and whether custodial powers are being exercised lawfully and in good faith.

8. Preservation of Critical CCTV Evidence

We respectfully request that you immediately issue directions to preserve, secure, and prevent the destruction, alteration, overwriting, or tampering of all CCTV footage relating to my husband's detention.

This should include, but not be limited to:

- Footage from all cameras covering his cell (especially while he was in cell no. 11);
- Footage from common detention areas;
- Footage from corridors and movement areas;
- Footage from visitation rooms; and
- Footage covering any searches, transfers, interrogations, or interactions involving him.

We were informed by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on 5th June 2026 that it has already requested the relevant CCTV material from the CID, but the requested material has not yet been provided.

Given the seriousness of the allegations and the probability that such footage constitutes crucial evidence, urgent steps must be taken to ensure its preservation and recovery.

9. Failure of CID Officers to Attend Human Rights Commission Inquiry

We are further informed that the Human Rights Commission inquiry, arising from a complaint lodged by myself, was scheduled to proceed yesterday.

However, CID representatives failed to attend the inquiry. This failure is a matter of serious concern and further underscores the need for an immediate, independent investigation by the Sri Lanka Police.

10. Request for Immediate Action

In light of the foregoing, we respectfully request from your good office that you:

1. Immediately commence an independent criminal investigation into the allegations set out above.
2. Record statements from my husband, his current and former cellmates, medical personnel, and all relevant CID officers.
3. Secure and preserve all CCTV footage and related electronic evidence without delay.
4. Obtain and review detention logs, visitor records, medical records, duty rosters, and custody registers.
5. Ensure my husband receives an immediate independent medical examination and treatment in accordance with the JMO's recommendations.
6. Investigate the alleged denial of medication, denial of adequate food, denial of sanitation facilities, physical abuse, degrading treatment, and any attempts to obstruct oversight processes.
7. Investigate the failure to comply with the requests and proceedings of the Human Rights Commission.
8. Take all necessary steps to ensure my husband's safety and physical well-being while investigations are ongoing.

Annexures

The following document is annexed in support of this complaint:

- **Annexure A** – Judicial Medical Officer's (JMO) Report and related medical directives.

Given the ongoing hunger strike and the serious risk to his life and health, we respectfully request your urgent intervention and immediate acknowledgment of this complaint.

We further wish to place on record that these concerns are not being raised for the first time. A detailed written complaint of possible inhuman, degrading, and cruel treatment of Major General (Retd.) Suresh Sallay while in custody was submitted to your office on 7th March 2026.

Despite the seriousness of the allegations contained therein, and despite the considerable passage of time since that complaint was lodged, we have received no response whatsoever from your office. To date, we have not been informed of any investigation having been initiated,

any statement having been recorded, any officer having been assigned to inquire into the matters raised, or any other action having been taken by the Sri Lanka Police in response to that complaint.

The failure to respond to the complaint of 7th March 2026 is particularly concerning given that the allegations involve the treatment of a person held in State custody, where the authorities bear a heightened legal responsibility to protect the life, health, safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of the detainee.

The matters set out in the present complaint demonstrate that the situation has significantly deteriorated since our earlier communication.

We therefore respectfully request that your office treat this communication as both a renewed complaint and an urgent request for immediate intervention, investigation, and accountability.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Manori Sallay', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Manori Sallay

Wife of Major General (Retd.) Suresh Sallay