

The Committee recommends that the State party review the existing procedure relating to the removal of Supreme court judges and judges of the Courts of the Appeal with a view to its amendment as a means to further secure the independence of the judiciary.

The Committee recommends the amendment of the Special Presidential Commissions of Inquiry Act in order that it comply with the provisions of Articles 14 and 25 of the Covenant.

The Committee recommends that the present provisions by which freedom of the press can be restricted by reason of parliamentary privilege should be removed. The State party should also take the necessary steps to prevent control and manipulation of electronic media by the Government.

With respect to the implementation of article 22, the Committee recommends that the State party ensure that workers within the Free Trade Zones effectively exercise their right to organize.

The Committee recommends that measures be taken to ensure the protection of the child and in this regard the particular attention of the State party is drawn to the Personal Status Act which permits the marriage of a girl at the age of 12 and its incompatibility with the provisions of the Covenant.

The Committee urges the State party to develop a comprehensive programme to deal with the issues of child labour, particularly of children in domestic service and the sexual exploitation of children of both sexes.

The Committee strongly recommends that greater efforts be undertaken to ensure that all ethnic groups are provided with opportunity to participate fully in the conduct of public affairs and are ensured equitable access to public service.

The Committee recommends that further measures be taken to develop greater awareness of the Covenant: in particular, law enforcement officials and members of the legal profession should be made fully cognizant of the provisions of the Covenant.

WE REPRODUCE BELOW SOME OF THE PROTESTS ON THE DEPORTATION OF DR. JANE RUSSELL

Women's organisation in Sri Lanka protest the summary arrest and deportation of Dr. Jane Russell, the well known British scholar who has produced many important work on Sri Lanka. Dr. Russell, trained in Cambridge England and at Peradeniya, Sri Lanka was working on two projects on Sri Lankan Women's history at the time of her deportation. She was researching the Women's Franchise Union of the 1920s as well as the life of prominent educationist Hilda Kularatne at the time of her summary deportation from this country. Dr. Russell's work is of enormous importance to the severely under-researched area of Sri Lankan women's history, and her deportation poses a great loss to Sri Lankan scholarship. We ask the government to take into account her past contributions to the field of Sri Lankan historical research as well as her ongoing work on women's history and ensure her return and continued work in Sri Lanka.

Signatories

**Feminist Forum
Women's Education and Research Centre
Women and Media Collective
Women's Task Force**

**SSA Gender Unit
Women For Peace
Voice of Women
Muslim Women's Research and Action Front.**

FORCEFUL DEPORTATION OF DR JANE RUSSELL: AN OUTRAGEOUSLY CONTEMPTUOUS ACT

Women for Peace is outraged and appalled to witness the arbitrary arrest, detention and subsequent forceful deportation of Dr Jane Russell, a renowned scholar and academic from Sri Lanka on 17th April 1996, when the government was celebrating the 80th birthday of the Prime Minister. We feel that she should have been honoured rather than deported on the day. We strongly condemn this capricious act of the bureaucracy. This act constitutes an instance of misuse of power of a sinister kind. Russell's lawyers were in the end, unable to plead her case in court which was due on 18th April 1996.

The actual reason for her deportation, we are told, was her overstay of her visa. However, the Immigration authorities have so far failed to explain the reason for confiscating Russell's passport. How did this high handed action of the Immigration authorities go unnoticed and unquestioned? Does this mean, that despite rhetoric on good governance and transparency, a bureaucracy has its own institutional powers to punish individuals with impunity?

The very modus operandi of the event underlines the extent of unlimited powers entrenched in the bureaucracy. While the real motive for her deportation remains yet to be determined, in the eyes of the law of the land, Russell was made guilty of the alleged charge of overstay of her visa. The law, however, is absolutely silent on the question of impoundment of her passport. The Controller of Immigration, it would appear, has been instructed from above to take stern action against Russell. We ask why?

We as **Women for Peace** undoubtedly find this deeply disturbing and shocking. Russell's case, it must be pointed out, illustrates a deep malaise stalking our society. The police officers, Russell claimed, were abusive and threatening. She was threatened with acts of violence, should she disobey and was refused permission to record a statement. There appears to be a mystery and conspiracy of silence shrouding the events that led to her deportation. The authorities have failed to ensure that justice prevails in this matter for Russell. We, at **Women for Peace** therefore, urge the government to redress the wrong done to Jane Russell and ensure her early return to Sri Lanka to continue her academic work.

ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS PROTEST

We deplore the deportation of Dr. Jane Russell on 17th April 1996. Dr. Russell is the reputed British scholar who has been residing in Sri Lanka since the 1970's. She was arrested on 11th April at Kadugannawa, and detained at Bogambara and Welikada Prisons and at the immigration detention centre at Mirihana.

Dr. Russell graduated from Oxford University, England, in 1972. She was subsequently awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to Sri Lanka and completed her Doctorate in Political History at Peradeniya University. She has published several important books on Sri Lanka which are used by students and researchers including *Communal Politics Under the Donoughmore Constitution* (1982), and *Our George*, the biography of George E. de Silva former minister of Health. Dr. Russell is currently working on two projects, a biography of Hilda Kularatne (and her work for Buddhist Womens education) and a study of the Women's Franchise Union of the 1920s.

We are deeply concerned at the inordinately harsh measures taken against this internationally renowned scholar. We call upon the Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that Dr. Jane Russell can return to Sri Lanka and continue with her academic research.

Signatories

Prof. Carlo Fonseka	Kelaniya University	Rohan Edirisinghe	Colombo University
Prof. Ranjith Amarasinghe	Peradeniya University	Faizun Zackariya	Muslim Wmn's Research & Action frnt.
Prof. Osmund Jayaratne	formerly Colombo University	Dr. Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu	Political Scientist
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Prof. Sudharshan Seneviratne	Peradeniya University	Jayantha Seneviratne	Kelaniya University
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Lal Wijenaikie,	Provincial Councillor	Jayarathne Maliyagoda	Trade Unionist
Vivienne Goonewardene	Former M.P.	Sharmini Boyle	Television director
Lucien Rajakarunanayake	Journalist	Chandragupta Thenuwara	Artist
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