

PRESS STATEMENT ON "SIRASA" ATTACK BY ARCHBISHOP OSWALD GOMIS

It was appalling to hear of the dastardly act of violence and destruction on the SIRASA Media Organization during the early hours of this morning and before.

The freedom of information is one of the basic rights of every person in human society. It is certainly so in a society that professes to be democratic. Thus the attack on " SIRASA " is an onslaught on that basic freedom of all persons who value democracy and should be viewed not just as an attack on one single media organization, but as an attack on one of the fundamental liberties of our whole democratic institution.

Such incidents have been taking place in the country now for sometime. And this has lowered our image before the world community.

We are listed among the countries where the freedom of the media is threatened. Incidents such as these will further the degrade our position before the world.

Therefore, it is imperative that immediate steps be taken to bring the culprits to book and condign punishment be meted out to them irrespective of their position or influence in society.

We strongly condemn this act of violence and appeal to the law-enforcing authority to take immediate and effective steps to meet out justice.

**+ Archbishop Oswald Gomis
The Archbishop of Colombo
and the Chairman of the Catholic Commission for Social Communication
of Bishops Conference, Sri Lanka.**

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