



Candles in the Rain

Remembering the Victims of the Easter Sunday Attacks Seven Years Without Justice



A protest march and prayer service organized by the Kandy Christian Community was held on April 21, 2026 to mark seven years since the Easter Sunday attacks, under the theme: “Seven years without Justice for the Easter Sunday attacks - Let us expose all forces obstructing the investigations”.



The event drew a large and diverse gathering of religious leaders, including Buddhist monks, Islamic religious leaders, Catholic priests and nuns, reflecting a strong sense of interfaith solidarity. Rev. Brothers from the Ampitiya National Seminary and other seminarians were also in attendance.

In addition to clergy, laypersons, civil society activists, legal professionals, journalists and victims of the Easter attack from across the Central Province participated in the event. Many voiced deep concern over the continued failure to ensure Justice and Accountability for one of the country’s most tragic incidents.

The protest march commenced at the Good Shepherd Convent in Kandy, with participants carrying placards calling for independent and transparent investigations. Demonstrators also raised concerns over misleading narratives and undue external influences that could undermine ongoing investigative efforts.



The procession concluded at George E. de Silva Park, where a solemn prayer service and remembrance ceremony took place. Participants lit candles and placed floral at the cross in memory of those who lost their lives, creating a deeply reflective and emotional atmosphere.



Delivering a reflection, Rt. Rev. Kumara Illangasinghe, former Bishop of the Kurunegala Diocese of the Anglican Church, emphasized the importance of sustained public engagement in the pursuit of Justice. The Bishop urged the Christian community and the wider public to ensure that the demand for accountability does not fade from national attention.

Addressing the gathering, Ven. Thalpotha Dhammajothi Thero of the Balagolla Buddhist Center noted that although various publications and narratives have emerged over the years, none have conclusively identified the masterminds behind the attacks.

Further commenting, Fr. Nandana Manatunga, Director of the Human Rights Office in Kandy, said that while Catholics are somewhat satisfied with the current government's investigations, attention must be paid to undue influences attempting to mislead the investigations through various publications and media campaigns.



Moulavi Mohammed Rizwan also addressed the gathering, expressing regret that even after seven years, the country has yet to receive clear answers regarding those ultimately responsible.

Attorney Suren D. Perera, who represents the rights of the victims, stated that since the Sainthamaruthu incident occurred while Deputy Defence Minister Aruna Jayasekara was serving as Eastern Commander, he should step down from his ministerial position in order to ensure the independence and

credibility of ongoing investigations.

Despite heavy rain, participants remained until the conclusion of the event, underscoring the emotional significance of the commemoration. Victims' families displayed photographs of their loved ones, drawing sympathy and reinforcing the urgent call for truth and justice.



JUSTICE, TRANSPARENCY and ACCOUNTABILITY
remain unfinished work -
not only for those who lost their lives,
but for a country still searching for closure.

