

## Sample solidarity statement: Sri Lanka protests

Title: **[Name of organization]** calls on Sri Lankan government to end the repression of students, teachers, and trade unionists

**[Name of organization]** is adding its voice to the call for the government of Sri Lanka to end its repression of students, teachers, and trade unionists in the country. **[Add a brief description about your organization and the members you represent.]**

Since March 2022, Sri Lanka has been rocked by mass protests over inflation, fuel and food shortages, government corruption, and attacks on fundamental freedoms. On July 9, tens of thousands demonstrated at the President's House in Colombo, Sri Lanka's capital, forcing the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on July 14.

His successor, Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe, initially supported the protesters but escalated the crackdown on dissent following his appointment. The targeting of education and democracy activists has been widely condemned, including by the [United Nations Human Rights High Commissioner](#), [Amnesty International](#), and the [International Crisis Group](#).

On August 3, police arrested [Joseph Stalin](#), General Secretary of the Ceylon Teachers' Union and a leading human rights campaigner. Stalin is the most senior trade union leader detained during the government's crackdown. Following [protests by teachers](#), he was released on bail.

On August 18, police arrested nearly 20 people during a march led by the [Inter University Students' Federation](#), the largest student organization in Sri Lanka, to protest the economic crisis and government repression. Most protesters were later released, but the government invoked its *Prevention of Terrorism Act* on August 22 to justify the continued detention of student leaders Wasantha Mudalige, Hashan Jeewantha, and Galwewa Siridhamma.

**On behalf of our \_\_\_\_\_ members, **[name of organization]** condemns the targeting and detention of student and labour activists in Sri Lanka and demands an immediate end to the government's campaign of repression.**

As **[students, educators, and/or trade unionists]**, we defend the rights of students, education workers, trade unionists, and all people in Sri Lanka to engage in the legitimate mass protests that are sweeping the country in response to the worsening economic crisis and for urgently needed reforms.

We also call on student and labour organizations outside of Sri Lanka to express their solidarity with the protests, demand an end to the crackdown on dissent, and defend the rights and civil liberties of the protesters.

In solidarity,

**[Name of president, chairperson, spokesperson, etc.]**

**[Name of organization]**

**[Website and/or social media of organization]**