**Discussion on the Anti-Terrorism Bill**

On 16th of May 2023, the Thulawa Association organized a thoughtful and interactive event to discuss the controversial Anti-Terrorism Bill and its objectives. The event took place at the Auditorium of Faculty of Law. Mr. Gazhali Hussain AAL, the Former Commissioner of the Human Rights Commission and Mr. Navin Marapana PC, Former Member of the Law Commission of Sri Lanka, joined as valuable panelists. Esteemed academics and law undergraduates from the Faculty of Law also attended the event.

The event focused on the current proposal of the Anti-Terrorism Bill and what it could mean. A thorough discussion about the existing anti-terrorism laws in Sri Lanka, the international legal rules and the new Anti-Terrorism Bill was conducted at this event. As a part of the agenda, a dedicated open mic session was also arranged. Many law undergraduates from all academic years actively engaged in this discourse, expressing their insights fluently in the three languages of Sinhala, English and Tamil.

During the panel discussion, the notable panelists Mr. Gazhali Hussain and Mr. Navin Marapana had different ideological viewpoints about the Bill. Mr. Gazhali Hussain strongly disagreed with the Bill, using his experience in the field of Human Rights to support his viewpoint, while emphasizing the fact that the Criminal Law of Sri Lanka provides remedies against all offences that the Anti-Terrorism Bill specifically seeks to provide. In contrast, Mr. Navin Marapana was of the opinion that certain offences require urgent and immediate action against, which the people themselves call for at times of crisis. Thereby, he explained why the bill was necessary from a practical point of view. This difference of ideological approach by the two panelists made the discussion more enlightening to the undergraduates.

It's important to mention that both the law undergraduates and the respected panelists greatly added to the effectiveness and importance of this live discussion. Using the insights gained during the panel discussion, Thulawa Association successfully compiled and conveyed a comprehensive appraisal of proposed Bill and handed over it to the Minister of Justice, Hon. (Dr.) Wijeyadasa Rajapaksa PC.

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