

Air Port Assistance for Arriving Migrant Domestic Workers from Jordan

On Tuesday 25th September 2012 Nineteen Sri Lankan domestic migrant workers who were detained in the Jordan prison for a long time arrived in Sri Lanka by Ethihad Air lines at 3.25 a.m. They had left Sri Lanka with dreams of earning a decent income to improve the quality of life of their families. But their dreams were shattered as for a variety of reasons they could not find a proper household to work with dignity. Many of them were not paid their wages. Despite facing such difficulties they worked diligently and completed their two year contract period. But their ordeals were not over. Many of them were not provided with an air ticket to return home either. Unable to continue the harsh conditions they faced several of them fled these households.



They were certainly not criminals. in prison for breaking the residency laws with no one paying any attention to their plight for a long time. The Sri Lankan embassy unfortunately had not paid any attention to their ordeals either. These unfortunate women had no way of communicating with their family members at home nor were they in a position to highlight their plight to their family. But Jordanian humanitarian organization called Tamkeen came to their rescue by providing them with air tickets and 100 dollars each to return home.

Fleeing their households they ended up



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Among the 19 Migrant Domestic Workers there were fourteen Sinhalese, two Tamils and two Muslims. They live around the island covering all the districts. All of them when they returned to Sri Lanka said that “we are not Criminals but we had to be in the prison”. In Colombo the Human Rights and Development organization (CHRD) coming to know of their arrival informed Caritas Sri Lanka and requested CSL to help these unfortunate women.



The Staff of Caritas Sri Lanka– SEDEC acted promptly and met the returnees who came empty handed, at air port. Caritas staff accompanied them until they were sent to Sahana Piyasa (SLBFE complain desk). The returnees who came back with shattered hopes and disappointment were able to smile since there was somebody waiting for them at the air port. Caritas Sri Lanka will continue with those migrant returnees until they get justice.

