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28/05/2024

Dr. T. Sathiyamoorthy

Director, Teaching Hospital Jaffna

Dear Sir,

Subject: Life-Threatening Environment for Health Staff at Teaching Hospital Jaffna

We write to inform you of a critical incident at Teaching Hospital Jaffna and urge you to take necessary steps to safeguard the working environment for healthcare staff.

On 27th May 2024, at 10:30 PM, an incident occurred at the Accident & Emergency unit of Teaching Hospital Jaffna. A motorbike rider brought a person with a minor hand injury into the hospital. Despite being stopped by security staff at the hospital entrance, the bike was brought beyond the admission counter. The injured person dismounted and entered the treatment unit without seeing a doctor at the OPD admission room.

When hospital staff gently asked the rider to remove the bike from the triage area, he became aggressive, verbally abused the staff, and threw a printer at a Health Service Assistant on duty, causing a head injury. The assistant received treatment for his injury, and video footage of the incident is attached. A police complaint was filed, and the offender, who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol, was arrested.

This incident highlights a severe safety issue within and outside the workplace, which could negatively impact patient care services in the future. Therefore, we request you to take the following steps:

1. Urgently convene an Incident Review meeting at the hospital level with all stakeholders.
2. Ensure a protected and safe environment for doctors and other healthcare staff both within and outside the workplace.
3. Guarantee a safe environment for other patients and their families who are being treated at the hospital.
4. Ensure that maximum legal actions are taken against the offenders involved in this incident and made obstruction of duty.

If these requests are not addressed by the relevant authorities, we will be compelled to initiate trade union actions in coordination with other health sector unions.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,


Secretary
GMOA BU TH JAFFNA
Secretary
GMOA - Branch Union
TH - Jaffna

Dr. T. Mayuran

Secretary, GMOA, Teaching Hospital Jaffna

Cc:

1. Hon. Governor, Northern Province
2. Secretary, GMOA Mother Union.

