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சுற்றாடல் நீதிக்கான கேந்திர நிலையம்
Centre for Environmental Justice



20/A, කුරුපු පාර, කොළඹ 08.
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PRESS RELEASE

CASE NO.CA Ap 531/11 Arsenic in Pesticides

Colombo, 05th August 2011- Today court of appeal issues notice to the Registrar of pesticides and other respondents considering the case filed by the Centre for Environmental Justice (CEJ) regarding the Arsenic in Pesticides. The Counsel Mr. Ravindranath Dabare submitted that there were no actions taken by the Registrar of Pesticides to bring the violators to the legal process although ROP accepted that there were 9 pesticides contain significant amount of Arsenic. These includes insecticide Accurator (Carbofuran 3%), and Herbicide Powermet 36% and 7 others.

The application bearing No C.A.. 531/2011 dated 02.08.2011, in the Court of Appeal seeking an order in *writ of mandamus* against the **Registrar of Pesticides, Central Environmental Authority, Commissioner General of Agrarian Development, Consumer Affairs Authority and the Attorney General** . The case was taken up for support today before the bench comprised with Justice Sri Skandharaja –President (CA) and Justice H.N.J. Perera .

Although the petitioner has informed the relevant authorities (Respondents) and requested them to take cognizance of above and to take prompt action in performance of the statutory duty. They have failed to respond satisfactorily up to date. Therefore, being aggrieved by the inaction, the Petitioner believes that it is necessary to take proper action in this regard exercising the powers of courts especially concerning the irreparable health and environmental damage.

The Court of Appeal which takes a very stern attitude on environmental matters and responding positively issued notice on the Respondents returnable on 24th August, 2011.

Counsel Ravindranath Dabare with Attorney at Law Ms. Indrani Wattege and Ms. Nilmal Wickramasinghe appeared for the Petitioner.

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Notes to the Journalist:

Counsel for the Petitioner submitted that the pesticides imported in to Sri Lanka contains harmful constituents such as **Arsenic Mercury and** other heavy metals and these unauthorized pesticides are imported to the country by submitting forged and illegal data and documents to the Sri Lankan Authorities so that these harmful pesticides are brought in to the country. He further stated that the “Arsenicosis” is a chronic illness resulting from drinking water with high levels of Arsenic. According to scientific researches, it has found that these are cause number of cancer types including Skin cancer, Bladder cancer, Lung cancer etc.

There are number of effects which cause variety of impacts to human bodies. Neurobehavioral and Naturopathic Effects, Effects on Memory and Intellectual Function, Reproductive Effects, Steatosis (Fatty Liver), Cardiovascular Disease, Ischemic Heart Diseases (IHD), Carotid Atherosclerosis, Respiratory System Diseases, Effects on Hormonal System, Diabetes Mellitus are some of them.