





Written by தமிழ்நாடு

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Respected Madam,

It is with dismay and great regret that we are writing to you regarding the withdrawal of the film With You, Without You, an Indo Sri Lanka joint collaboration directed by the acclaimed Sri Lankan film maker, Prasanna Vithanage. The film was released at PVR Ampa Skywalk and Escape Cinema on 20 June 2014 to an extremely positive reaction from the audience and rave reviews from critics. However, we have been informed that it is being withdrawn by the exhibitors following threatening calls made to the theatre management. The local police, we are told, on being informed about the threats have refused to take any action and conveyed their inability to provide protection to the theatre. As a result the exhibitors have had to withdraw the film.

The film is a close collaboration between Prasanna Vithanage and the Indian film fraternity. The National Award winning editor from the Tamil and Mumbai film industry, Sreekar Prasad has edited the film. Prominent documentary film maker from Delhi, Rahul Roy is a co-producer. Anjali Patil from Mumbai has essayed the main role and won the Best Actress award at the International Film Festival of India (2012) held in Goa. The film is a sensitive portrayal of post war Sri Lanka and the consequences of denial of justice to the Tamil population. Instead of supporting the widest possible exhibition of this film in India we are today witnessing the opposite and all because some stray people have decided without seeing the film that it is inimical to Tamil interest. A great irony indeed given the fact that the film is a scathing testimony of the suffering that the war has unleashed. We should be applauding the effort made by Prasanna Vithanage who has paved very difficult circumstances to ping to us a putally honest account of war, suffering and the miscarriage of justice.

We are seeking your intervention not only as the constitutional authority of the state but also as a supporter of the film making fraternity.

We request you to ensure that action is taken against those who made threatening calls to the theatres and the police be instructed to provide adequate protection for the film to be screened. We cannot let mobs rough ride film makers right to freedom of expression enshrined in our constitution and deprive audiences the right to see films they wish to. We appeal to you to protect our constitutional rights.

Yours Sincerely,

Rahul Roy

Please send your endorsement of this letter to: rahulroy63@gmail.com so that we can include your signature. Please add your city, country and professional occupation.