

Human Rights & Police Accountability Case Study Report

Report No:	GHRF/2026/PA-SL28
Title:	The Culture of 'Case Quotas', Fabricated Evidence, and Malicious Prosecution in the Police: An Investigation into the Landmark Compensation Order Imposed by the Gampaha Magistrate's Court on Officers of the Gampaha Anti-Vice Unit and the Police Department
Date of Verdict:	May 28, 2026
Data Source:	BBC Sinhala News Report & Official Verdict of the Gampaha Magistrate's Court

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The arbitrary and irregular administrative culture within the Sri Lanka Police aimed at "boosting monthly case numbers (Targets) to project false progress" directly causes innocent citizens to face fabricated narcotics charges and malicious prosecution. This constitutes a severe violation of fundamental human rights, compromises citizen liberty, and wastes valuable judicial time.

Condemning in the harshest terms the actions of Gampaha Anti-Vice Unit officers who instituted two separate cases against the same individual, on the same day, under identical charges using fabricated evidence, Gampaha Magistrate Bandula Gunaratne delivered an exceptional, historic order on May 28, 2026. This case study examines the institutional 'case quota' culture and its deep legal ramifications.

2. CASE INVESTIGATION AND FRAUDULENT POLICE TACTICS

The fundamental facts and investigative background surrounding this malicious raid are as follows:

- **The Victim:** Chamara Chathuranga Marasinghe, a citizen residing in Makandana, Devalapola.
- **The Charges:** Possession of 130 mg of 'Ice' (Methamphetamine) and 500 mg of 'Heroin' at the Asgiriya Junction in Gampaha on or around May 06, 2026.
- **Police Witnesses:** Three officers, including a Police Sergeant and a Police Constable from the Gampaha Anti-Vice Division, were listed as prosecution witnesses.

2.1 Judicial Deception inside Court (Double Jeopardy)

When the first case regarding the possession of narcotics was initially called against the accused in court, he pleaded guilty and a fine was subsequently imposed. However, mere moments later, the police moved to call a second case against the same accused, on the exact same charges and data. Observing this grave injustice, the Magistrate summoned the responsible officers to explain why legal action should not be pursued against them under Section 17(1) of the Code

of Criminal Procedure for malicious prosecution. Despite the summons, no senior officers, including the Gampaha Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), appeared before the court.

3. POLICE EXPLANATIONS AND JUDICIAL DEMOLITION

Police Contentions: The Police Sergeant appearing for the prosecution claimed that 16 other individuals were arrested along with this accused on the day of the raid, and therefore, the dual indictments were filed due to a clerical error. He consequently requested permission to withdraw one case while proceeding with the other.

Judicial Stance: Rejecting the police explanation, the Magistrate noted that the deliberate naming of three police officers as witnesses highlighted a clear intention to secure a malicious conviction. The court flatly denied the police request and immediately acquitted the accused from both cases.

4. CRITICAL REVELATIONS THROUGH GOVERNMENT ANALYST REPORTS

The Magistrate used the verdict to expose another highly corrupt facet of narcotics raids across the country. He noted that while police institute massive amounts of drug cases solely to secure promotions or commendations, chemical analysis by the Government Analyst routinely reveals that the actual narcotic content within the seized substances is drastically lower than reported.

"In several instances, the seized exhibits contain only microscopic traces of the actual narcotic substance, while certain police exhibits have been verified by the Government Analyst to contain absolutely zero traces of drugs, confirming that fake substances were maliciously planted."

5. CRITICISM OF IRREGULAR 'CASE TARGETS' ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVES

Gampaha Magistrate Bandula Gunaratne directed three direct policy criticisms against the higher management structure of the Police Department:

- The Infeasible 5-Year Projection:** If the police hierarchy continues to demand that case targets must blindly increase month-over-month, within the next 5 years, the entire population of Sri Lanka will not suffice for the police to file fabricated cases.
- Rising Case Numbers Signify Inefficiency:** The police department falsely equates high case volumes with efficiency. Conversely, a spike in offenses and cases within a specific jurisdiction reflects police inefficiency and a fundamental failure in crime prevention. Real efficiency is demonstrated when crime and case counts decrease month-over-month.
- Manipulation to Limit Judicial Discretion:** The court observed that the police regularly abuse Section 54 of the Poisons, Opium, and Dangerous Drugs Ordinance as a calculated tactic to curtail independent judicial discretion. The ultimate casualty of this practice is the complete erosion of the judiciary's trust in police officers.

6. EXCEPTIONAL COMPENSATION AND PENALTY FRAMEWORK

To deliver justice to the harassed citizen, the court ordered a collective compensation framework totaling nearly LKR 200,000, structured precisely as follows:

Compensating Party	Methodology	Amount (LKR)
Three Police Officers Involved in Raid	Ordered to pay LKR 25,000 each out of their personal funds to the accused under Section 17(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure for malicious prosecution.	LKR 75,000
Police Reward Fund	As the fund accumulates massive public revenues through fines collected under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, it must be held liable for compensatory damages in vexatious cases. Ordered to pay LKR 50,000 per fabricated case for both cases.	LKR 100,000
Total Compensation	Total cumulative amount to be paid directly to Mr. Chamara Chathuranga Marasinghe.	LKR 175,000

6.1 Command Responsibility and Prohibition of Disciplinary Action

The Magistrate enforced an exceptionally strict condition within his ruling, explicitly prohibiting the Police Department from initiating internal disciplinary action against the lower-level officers penalized by this order. The court emphasized that if disciplinary measures are to be taken against subordinates, command responsibility dictates that all top-tier police chiefs who instituted these short-sighted 'case targets' must equally be held liable and penalized.

7. GHRF CONCLUSIONS AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Global Human Rights Front (GHRF) hails this judgment as one of the most progressive and brilliant decisions in Sri Lankan judicial history against police tyranny and the culture of falsified cases. By directing a copy of the order to the Inspector General of Police (IGP), the court clearly demands structural policy reforms across the law enforcement apparatus.

Our Policy Recommendations:

- 1. Immediate Abolition of 'Monthly Case Targets':** The IGP must instantly dismantle the administrative system that measures officer capability or promotions based on the volume of monthly cases. Evaluation must pivot to crime prevention metrics and community policing efficacy.
- 2. Mandatory Field Testing and Analytical Accountability:** To avoid prolonged remand periods based on fake evidence, the use of rapid field-testing kits must be made mandatory prior to booking suspects. Officers presenting falsified exhibits must be prosecuted under ordinary criminal law.
- 3. Enforcing Judicial Summons:** Magistrates must execute direct warrants for 'Contempt of Court' against senior police command structures (such as the SSP in this instance) who evade or disregard direct judicial summons.

