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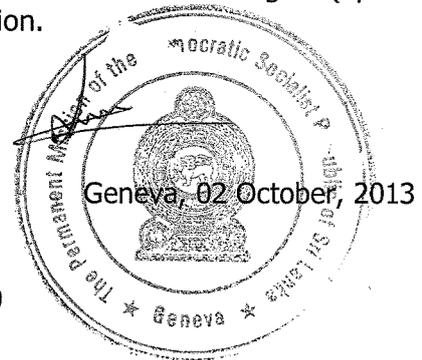
The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch) and has the honour to refer to the latter's Joint Urgent Appeal dated 17 August 2011 addressed to the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, by Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Mr. Juan E. Mendez, Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment with regard to the situation of Mr. Wickramasinghe Arachchige Ranjith Chandrasiri Perera, a Lieutenant Colonel of the Sri Lanka Army.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka has the honour to transmit to the Working Group the information received from the Government of Sri Lanka with regard to Mr. Wickramasinghe Arachchige Ranjith Chandrasiri Perera. (Please see **Annex.**)

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka would appreciate if the annexed information is taken note of, and records duly updated.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this communication by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch).

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office in Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Special Procedures Branch) the assurances of its highest consideration.



Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Special Procedures Branch

(Attn: Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Mr. Juan E. Mendez, Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment)

52, Palais Wilson,
Rue de Paquis,
CH-1201 Geneva.

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Response of the Government of Sri Lanka to the Communication dated 17 Augusts 2011 from the Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Special Rapproteur on Torture

Mr. Wickramasinghe Arachchige Ranjith Chandrasiri Perera was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Sri Lanka Army and while he was serving in the Army in 2009, it transpired that he was conspiring to assassinate the President, the Secretary to the Ministry of Defence and the former Army Commander for the purpose of aiding and abetting the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a terrorist organization. He was arrested in connection with these charges on 14th May 2009 by the officers of the Colombo Crime Division (CCD).

Mr. Wickramsasinghe was arrested under the Provisions of the Emergency Regulations and later handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further investigations on 19th September 2009. He was kept in the custody of the CID until 12th August 2010. The CID has collected sufficient evidence to prove his connection with the LTTE and his involvement in committing an offence against the State. On 13th August 2010, he was produced before the Mt. Lavinia Magistrate Court under the Case No. B 1475/2009 and remanded under the Provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Subsequently, he was indicted in the High Court of Colombo under Case Nos. 5873/01/2011 and 5874/01/2011, for aiding and abetting the LTTE, conspiring to assassinate the leaders of the country and for being in possession of illegal arms and ammunition. Trials of these two cases have already commenced and are in progress.

The allegation that his arrest may have been linked to his previous affiliation to General Sarath Fonseka, the former Army Commander who later ran as opposition presidential candidate is baseless. Mr. Wickramasinghe was arrested on 14th May 2009 at a time when General Fonseka was still serving as the Army Commander and not engaged in politics.