



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE, GENEVA**

Tel: (022) 919 12 50
Fax: (022) 734 90 84
E-mail: mission@lankamission.org
Web address: www.lankamission.org

56, Rue de Moillebeau
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

HR/60

14th January 2013

Ms. Gabriela Knaul
Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

Mr. Frank La Rue
Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to
Freedom of Opinion and Expression

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya
Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders

**Communication from Special Procedures:
Joint Urgent Appeal**

I write with reference to the communication dated 14th January 2013 received from the OHCHR, containing a joint urgent appeal from you with the same date addressed to the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva, with regard to the alleged attack against human rights defender Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayaka, President of the Colombo Magistrate's Court Lawyers' Association.

I would like to draw your kind attention to Para 6 of the letter dated 7th January 2013 by H.E. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva addressed to Ms. Gabriela Knaul, Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers which, *inter alia*, contained a response to the issue of the alleged attack on Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayaka which has been referred to in the Special Rapporteur's urgent appeal dated 27th December 2012 addressed to the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka.

I have noted that your urgent appeal of 14th January 2013 contains no acknowledgement of or reference to the above response dated 7th January 2013 sent by Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka addressed to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, which refers to the alleged attack on Mr. Gunaratne Wanninayaka.

It is observed that resolution 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Human Rights Council, in its article 6(b) notes that the Mandate Holders shall "take into account in a comprehensive and timely manner, in particular information provided by the state concerned on situations relevant to their mandate".

I would, in the above context, appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of letter dated 7th January 2013 addressed to the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers by the Ambassador/Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka which, *inter alia*, contained a response to the issue raised in your letter of 14th January 2013.



Manisha Gunasekera
Charge d' Affaires a.i.