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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 Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief and has the honour to refer to a letter dated 11 July 2012 addressed to H.E. Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, the Ambassador / Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, by Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

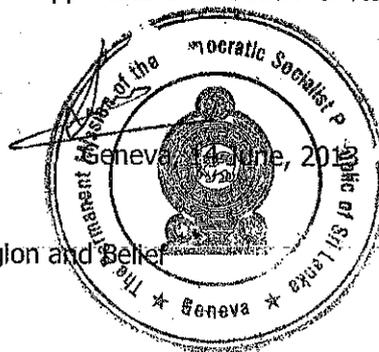
The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka has the honour to transmit to the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief, the following information received from the Government of Sri Lanka with regard to an alleged assault of a 14 year old student by his school teacher for refusing to learn Buddhism at the Mahanama College in Gatambe in Kandy district, Sri Lanka.

*The Buddhist priest against whom the impugned complaint had been made is a member of the academic staff of the school where the Complainant's son ██████████ ██████████ had been studying. After the complaint was lodged, the police had investigated in to the matter and facts haven been reported to the Magistrate Court Kandy under case number B/20854/12.*

*This matter has received the attention of the Attorney General and upon studying the material, the Attorney General has directed the police to conduct additional investigations in to this matter with a view to considering criminal charges against the Buddhist priest concerned. Initial indications are that this incident has arisen over a disciplinary issue and unconnected with any infringement of religious freedom. Steps would be taken to have this matter attended to expeditiously.*

The Permanent Mission Sri Lanka would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt of this communication by the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief.

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 Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief the assurances of its highest consideration.



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