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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 Allegation Letter dated 29 December 2011 addressed to the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva, by Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; Mr. Maina Kiai, Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association; Ms. Margaret Sakaggya, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders; Ms. Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences and Mr. Frank La Rue, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, with regard to the arrest and detention of 42 human rights and political activists who were planning a peaceful protest in Jaffna on 10 December 2011.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka has the honour to transmit to the Working Group the response received from the Government of Sri Lanka on the case under reference. (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.

Geneva, 23 December, 2013

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

(Attn: Mr. Jeremy Sarkin, Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,
Mr. Maina Kiai, Special Rapporteur on the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and of Association,
Ms. Margaret Sakaggya, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders,
Ms. Rashida Manjoo, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences,
Mr. Frank La Rue, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression)

52, Palais Wilson
Rue de Paquis
CH-1201 Geneva

Response by the Government of Sri Lanka to the Joint Allegation Letter dated 29 December 2011

On 10.12.2011 a group of Human Rights Activists led by Dr. Wickramabahu Karunaratne, Leader of the Socialist Party have conducted a protest opposite the Hatton National Bank at Jaffna Town. The protesters have gone on procession in the city and they have distributed leaflets among the public in a peaceful manner on a request made by Hon. Mavai Senadirajah, MP. The protesters have freely moved about in the city and conducted their protest.

It has been informed by the Sri Lanka Police Department that no arrest has been made by the Police of any person involved in the said protest and there is no credible evidence to prove any intimidation by the Police of the protestors as alleged.

However, it has been informed by the Sri Lanka Police that the buses in which the protesters arrived had been directed to be parked outside the main city due to heavy traffic congestion caused by their wayward parking.

As alleged, there had been no arrest or confiscation of any material carried by the protesters and the Police had in fact given protection to the protesters to engage in their protest freely.