



No. 435/2024

Ref: HR/50

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 Special Procedures Branch of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and has the honour to refer to the communication No. AL LKA 4/2024 on the 'Joint Communication from Special Procedures' dated 25 October 2024.

The Permanent Mission wishes to transmit herewith the observations provided by the Government of Sri Lanka on the issues raised.

The Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka would appreciate an acknowledgement of receipt of this communication by the Special Procedures Branch at the earliest convenience.

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 Special Procedures Branch of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 26 December 2024

Special Procedures Branch
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Geneva



GoSL response to the Joint Communication received from Special Procedures Mandate Holders (AL/LKA 4/2024)

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) wishes to refer to the Joint Communication (AL/LKA/4/2024) dated 25 October 2024, submitted by four Special Procedure Mandate Holders seeking clarifications and information concerning alleged threats and intimidation of woman human rights defender Mrs. Nelum Kumuduni Jayasekara, acting on the alleged disappearances of her son, [REDACTED] and wishes to make the following observations:

- a. [REDACTED] was arrested on 20 January 2023 by Horowpathana Police for possession of heroin and was produced before Kabithigollawa Magistrate Court under case No. B 87/2023. On 07 December 2023, he was granted bail by Anuradhapura High Court under a surety.
- b. Subsequently, [REDACTED] was identified by the Police as the primary suspect of a double murder committed on 11 March 2024 at two separate locations, Pitigala and Ambalangoda and causing grievous hurt to three more people on the same day using a T56 weapon.
- c. The Police had tracked him to a residence located within the jurisdiction of Meetiyagoda Police and on 27 March 2024, a Special Task Force (Sri Lanka Police) team, including two female officers, had visited the residence and inquired about the suspect from Ms. Nelum Kumudini Jayasekara, who had identified herself as the suspect's mother. Ms. Jayasekara had informed the officers that her son had left the house without disclosing his destination. During this visit, the Police team had recorded statements from three occupants of Ms. Jayasekara's residence, with their consent:
Ms. Nelum Kumudini Jayasekara
[REDACTED] (her husband)
[REDACTED] (her grandson)
- d. The suspect's family had also filed a complaint at Horowupotana Police Station on the same date (27 March 2024) regarding his alleged disappearance.
- e. On 27 March 2024, when the Police visited the residence, they had informed Ms. Jayasekara that her son, [REDACTED] was suspected of involvement in the murders at Pitigala and Ambalangoda. Ms. Jayasekara had denied the suspect's involvement but mentioned that her second son, [REDACTED] had been implicated in a double homicide in Ambalangoda on 21 August 2022. She had provided information on the residence of her second son. Based on this information, the Police had apprehended [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on 28 March 2024 and Mr. Kelum Nirosha had informed the Police that his brother, [REDACTED] was residing in Horowupotana, and had shared the address.

- f. However, [REDACTED] had not been present when the Police visited the reported address in Horowupotana on 11 April 2024 and his wife had informed the officers that he had left the house several days prior.
- g. On 7 April 2024, a Police team from Pitigala Police Station had visited Ms. Jayasekara's residence again to escort her to the Police Station to obtain a formal statement regarding the ongoing investigation.
- h. Subsequently, the Police had apprehended [REDACTED] near the Horangolla Sri Purana Maha Viharaya, Pitigala, on 20 April 2024, and handed him over to the Pitigala Police station for further investigation.
- i. The suspect had been produced before the Elpitiya Magistrate Court under Case No. 37732 on 21 April 2024. He is currently in Galle remand prison.
- j. The Police (STF) had recorded statements from Ms. Jayasekara only on two occasions (27 March and 7 April, 2024). The Police has no information regarding the alleged attack against Ms. Jayasekara on 12 July 2024.

It would be appreciated if this update could be acknowledged and the query considered as responded to.