



LAYLA MORAN MP

Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford West and Abingdon

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The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Our Ref: FN/LM46322
13 April 2022

Dear Secretary of State,

Reports from numerous human rights organisations, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, have painted a disturbing picture of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

It is clear that domestic mechanisms for accountability in Sri Lanka have eroded and failed over the past few years. We are concerned that the Sri Lankan government will only continue as it has – to deny, to delay, and to evade.

Michele Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in her report in February 2021 that she is “deeply concerned by the trends that have emerged ...which may represent early warning signs of a deteriorating human rights situation and urges Member States to pursue alternative international options for ensuring justice and reparations and to strengthen capacity to make progress”.

The UK needs to lead the way in upholding international law and ensure that those perpetrators of atrocities are brought to justice.

We are calling on you to:

1. Ensure that those who committed war crimes are properly investigated and held to account for what they have done. Where there is evidence that atrocities have been committed by an individual, it is vital that the UK Government takes action, including the use of Magnitsky sanctions.
2. To be proactive in using our Magnitsky sanctions regime. It sends a signal that committing international crimes - and in the case of the Civil War, atrocities - is utterly unacceptable, and will not be tolerated by the international community.
3. Introduce a ‘presumption of denial’ of arms sales applications to countries with human rights concerns. Sri Lanka listed as a Human Rights Priority Country in the Foreign Office’s most recent annual human rights report.
4. Work with the international community to ensure hold the Sri Lankan government to account - both on its record regarding domestic mechanisms for accountability, and regarding current and ongoing human rights abuses.



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Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to your response.

Best wishes,

Layla Moran MP

Sir Ed Davey MP

Sarah Olney MP