Paul Scully MP

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I have noted with interest the recent comments made by Mr Pablo de Greiff the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence following an official visit to Sri Lanka.

I am disappointed to read that he believes sufficient progress has not been made on several areas of vital importance, including transitional justice. I am particularly concerned that there are still unresolved land disputes, the outdated and misused Prevention of Terrorism Act remains in place and the harassment of human rights and social actors continues. The Office of Missing Persons, a topic I raised recently in Geneva, requires better resourcing. Independent monitoring and support in the North and East of the country coupled with a demilitarisation of those areas can help move this forward.

While there is evidence of some, albeit slow progress on constitutional reform and embryonic efforts to strengthen the judiciary, I believe more can be done. It is beholden upon the government and leadership of Sri Lanka to quicken the pace of reform ahead of the detailed report that will be presented at the UNRC in September 2018.

Chair All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils

Paul Scully

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