Paul Scully MP

Member of Parliament for Sutton, Cheam & Worcester Park



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HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

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Dear all

The Westminster Magistrate's Court has issued an arrest warrant for Brigadier Priyanka Fernando of the Sri Lankan army, having found him guilty of violating the Public Order Act.

Fernando was found guilty of violating sections 5 and 4A of the act, with the court stating that his actions were threatening, caused harassment, and that he intended them to be so.

A private prosecution was brought against the Sri Lankan soldier who was filmed motioning a death threat to Tamils in London last year, running his finger across his neck whilst dressed in full military uniform. Fernando also led troops in a military offensive in 2009 that allegedly massacred tens of thousands of Tamil civilians, and was part of the 59th Division of the Sri Lankan military, implicated in the shelling of hospitals south of Mullaitivu.

Thanks go to all involved including the complainant, counsel, legal advisers and witnesses who came forward.

The APPGt welcomes this development and the clear message that such intimidation is not welcome on our streets. Officials cannot be allowed to act with impunity on our streets, particularly not under the guise of diplomatic protection. I would also like to thank APPGt colleagues who all publicly raised and condemned the incident at the time.

Paul Scully MP

Chairman All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils

Paul Scully

Conservative Member of Parliament for Sutton, Cheam & Worcester Park