



HOUSE OF COMMONS
London SW1A 0AA

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

22nd July 2021

By email

Dear Dominic,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today regarding several issues that have been brought to my attention by a number of Tamils from across my Ilford South constituency, who I met at a recent surgery. Many of them tell me that they are victims of torture by the Sri Lankan armed forces.

I understand that among their primary concerns was the recent appointment of General Shavera Silva to Chief of the Defence Staff and Commander of the Sri Lankan Army. General Silva, as you are no doubt aware, has been accused of serious human rights abuses and is currently subject to sanctions by the US Government due to his alleged involvement through command responsibility in gross violations of human rights, namely extrajudicial killings, during Sri Lanka's Civil War in 2009. Indeed, not a single Sri Lankan Government Minister, official or military officer has been designated by the UK Government for human rights sanctions, despite widely available evidence of human rights abuses.

I am told that the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) made a submission to the Sanctions Department of the FCDO on General Silva in April 2021. The submission argues that Silva should be designated under the UK's Global Human Rights (GHR) Sanctions Regime established in July 2020. Have you reviewed this submission, and will you designate General Silva under the UK's GHR Sanctions Regime? What plans, if any, do you have to use Magnitsky legislation to issue targeted sanctions on Sri Lankan officials found to be complicit in war crimes and mass atrocities?



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My constituents are also deeply troubled by the Sri Lankan Government's withdrawal from UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Resolutions 30/1, 34/1 and 40/1, which set out a process for obtaining accountability for war crimes committed during the Sri Lankan civil war and instructed Sri Lanka to undertake a process of transitional justice, peace and reconciliation. Will you condemn this deeply disappointing move by the Sri Lankan Government?

I am also aware that, several weeks ago, the EU passed resolution 2021/2748 calling for a human rights assessment to review Sri Lanka's eligibility for GSP+ trade tariff concessions. In a similar vein, what conversations have you been having with your colleagues in the Department for International Trade to ensure that any future bilateral trade deals with Sri Lanka are subject to stringent human rights tests and a recommitment by the Sri Lankan Government to UNHRC Resolutions 30/1, 34/1 and 40/1?

I would welcome a meeting with yourself and some of my constituents to discuss this in greater depth as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Samuel', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sam Tarry MP
Member of Parliament for Ilford South