

Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

Foreign Secretary
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London, SW1A 2AH

7th June 2023

Dear Foreign Secretary,

I am writing regarding yet another worrying development in Sri Lanka.

I have been made aware this morning of reports that a Tamil MP, Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam, has been arrested.

These events have understandably caused significant concern amongst Tamils in Sri Lanka as well as the Tamil community in the UK. It has been alleged that Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam was arrested at a time when he was planning on tabling a motion in the Sri Lankan Parliament regarding threats to his life. Given his late father was assassinated whilst a MP, the gravity of his situation could not be clearer.

Further details about the arrest of Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam and his current situation are urgently needed.

I would therefore be grateful if you could provide an update on your understanding of the situation. What is the Foreign Office's assessment of the circumstances around Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam and his current situation? What contact have you had with your counterpart in the Sri Lankan government regarding this matter?

I hope that you will be able to get back to me as a matter of urgency. Given the current economic, social and political crises in Sri Lanka, it is important the UK Government makes its voice heard, standing up for civil rights and political freedom in Sri Lanka.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Davey'.

Ed Davey MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats