

**High Commission for the Democratic
Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka**



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My Ref. HCL/POL/1B

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18 December 2009

Rt. Hon. Tom Clark, MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

Dear Sir,

My attention has been drawn to questions raised by your goodself re. the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka, appearing on Column 1013W House of Commons – 4 November 2009.

Your goodself has asked the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs as to the representations made to the Sri Lanka Government on

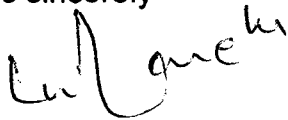
- (i) sexual abuse of children in camps for internally displaced persons, and
- (ii) violence against women in the camps, and
- (iii) trends in the level of prostitution in such camps.

I am extremely sorry that your goodself has been misled by some mischievous elements, possibly the LTTE, into raising these issues on the floor of that august assembly. I find that Hon. Mike Foster, in his answer had not adverted to any specific issues you raised in the House of Commons, except articulating the need for access and generalising the assertion the Tamil diaspora has been propagating in this country. All that the Hon. Minister said was that, "we continue to press the Government of Sri Lanka to allow humanitarian agencies access to the camps to assess allegations of abuses such as violence against women, the sexual abuse of children and enforced prostitution". It was obviously because there was no evidence of such sexual abuse, violence against women or any level of prostitution. If such was the case, the Hon. Minister would have adverted to specific instances. I might state in most emphatic terms, that no such misconduct pervades the camps. These camps were set up to accommodate desperate Tamil people who escaped from the LTTE strangle hold with no where to go. The LTTE in fact opened fire at the fleeing Tamil civilians.

I would urge your goodself to request the informants of any specific instances they are aware of, so that I could refer them to my Government for investigation and report. Unsubstantiated allegations of this nature when it gets into public domain, entails serious repercussions. If such were to happen, resentment would be self-generating and human rights organisations, i.e. the UN, ICRC and other international organisations, would have engaged the Sri Lanka Government. The LTTE elements are well known for their disinformation ability. May I reassure your goodself again that no such violations and abuse exist in the camps in Sri Lanka and also urge your goodself to check with the informant the source of such information.

Please feel free to speak to me or any member of this Mission, if such allegations are ever presented to your goodself, and we shall deal with such indiscretions with all the seriousness it deserves.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nihal Jayasinghe', written in a cursive style.

Justice Nihal Jayasinghe
High Commissioner