

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



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9 November 2010

Mr. T Gallagher
Chief Editor
The Daily Telegraph
111, Buckingham Palace Road
London SW1W 0DT

Dear Mr. Gallagher

1. I refer to the news item titled "Sri Lankan cancels visit in fear of arrest" which appears in page 17 of the World News Section in The Daily Telegraph today, 09 November 2010 where reference has been made to comments attributed to me (paragraph 3).
2. Mr. Damien McElroy, The Daily Telegraph correspondent who has written this article called me yesterday to discuss about the proposed amendments to universal jurisdiction laws in the UK. I mentioned to him that **this question involves domestic legislation of a sovereign country and we have no comments hence**. The correspondent went on to ask as to whether the High Commission is aware of the proposed amendments to the universal jurisdiction laws in the UK to which I replied, "Yes we follow the developments in the host country". My discussion with him did not go beyond this. Therefore, his reporting today is a gross distortion of what transpired during our telephone conversation.
3. The factual situation regarding the Sri Lankan President's visit, we would like to reiterate, is that the President of Sri Lanka has accepted an invitation for a talk at the Oxford Union. In this regard, the Ministry of External Affairs of Sri Lanka issued a press statement on 5 November 2010, a copy of which is attached hereto.
4. I shall be grateful if paragraphs 2 & 3 above could be published as my response with equal prominence.

Yours sincerely


P M Amza

Deputy High Commissioner
for High Commissioner