

MEDIA RELEASE
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To High Commissioner for Human Rights

21 August 2014

**Extension of the mandate given by Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/25/1
OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka**

We notice with concern and alarm that the Time Frame referred to in the Terms of Reference for the OHCHR investigation on Sri Lanka, guided by UNHRC Resolution A/HRC/25/1, has been arbitrarily extended. We urge you to rectify this matter immediately as this level of deceitfulness neither improve the image of the anti Sri Lankan biased behaviour of the retiring High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay nor portray the independence of the Office itself.

The Society for Peace Unity and Human Rights for Sri Lanka in Australia:

Acknowledging that the Time Frame referred to in the UNCHR Resolution A/HRC/25/L.1/Rev.1, Section 10 (b) dated 26 March 2014 stated "To undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission, and to establish the facts and circumstances of such alleged violations and of the crimes perpetrated with a view to avoiding impunity and ensuring accountability, with assistance from relevant experts and special procedures mandate holders;"

Noting that the Time Frame covered by the Terms of Reference of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) defined the investigation period¹ as "To inquire and report on the following matters that may have taken place during the period between 21st February, 2002 and 19th May, 2009, namely:"

Observing that the Time Frame given in the Terms of Reference for OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka defines the period under investigation to be "that covered by the LLRC, that is, from 21 February 2002 until 15 November 2011, when it presented its report to the President of Sri Lanka"¹

Urge you to:

1. **Acknowledge** that the above extension of time is a blatant violation of the mandate given by the Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/25/1;
2. **Rectify** the arbitrary extension of the investigation period to 15 November 2011 to match with that of the LLRC investigation period; and
3. **Reset** the end date of the investigation to 19 May 2011 complying with UN resolution A/HRC/25/1

Dr Dasarath Jayasuriya
PRESIDENT

Copy: Presidential Secretariat of Sri Lanka

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lessons_Learnt_and_Reconciliation_Commission

ⁱ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/OISL.aspx>,