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REGISTRATION NO : 94187460368

WWW.GLOBALSRILANKANFORUM.COM

SECRETARY@GLOBALSRILANKANFORUM.COM

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MEDIA RELEASE

**The Hon Prime Minister
The Hon Member of the Parliament
The Hon Member of the Senate**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Hon Ranil Wickremasinghe, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka now - on a visit to Australia

This letter is to draw the kind attention of Parliamentarians, University Dons and the media to Sri Lanka Prime Minister Hon Ranil Wickremasinghe's current tour of Australia as a guest of the Australian Government.

Our organisation represents the global Sri Lankan community, and has serious concerns of the democratic values espoused by the Prime Minister Wickremasinghe as seen by his actions. Whilst portraying himself as a paragon of democracy, by his own actions, Wickremasinghe has rubbished and destroyed the sacrosanct mandate of the people of Sri Lanka.

The very backbone of democracy has been broken in Sri Lanka as never before, through openly arrogant and manipulative actions. Ranil Wickremasinghe is also the Vice President (ex officio) of the International Democratic Union.

Today, the august Parliament of Sri Lanka has been turned into a circus and a comedy. It has degraded in to backdoor employment bureau for candidates rejected by the people, and also as venue for a grand and bulk induced crossover project. MPs numbering almost 25% of the newly elected MPs crossed over in a House 225 to form a 'pseudo' national government. These cross overs have not been done due deference to any principle of altruism.

Further, it is also appropriate for the Australians to question Wickremasinghe's short sighted political expediency in attempting to score political points, ignoring the bold steps taken by Australia to save the lives of Sri Lankan 'boat people'. We have quoted this short adventure at the tail end of our letter. This puerile and most damaging outburst on the former Australian Prime Minister of Tony Abbot was done in Wickremasinghe's exuberance

in catapulting to the position as Prime Minister in a payback deal with the newly installed President.

The information quoted below is well document in the Sri Lanka Parliamentary Hansards and are freely available public domain information.

Wickremasinghe has now formed a pseudo 'national' government inducing the crossover of over 50 MPs of the national parliament just days after the general elections. The inducements on offer were ministerial positions now totalling nearly seventy, thereby trashing the recently passed 19 Amendment that limits the ministerial numbers to twenties.

This rash and un-mandated action effectively destroyed the opposition mandate of 95 seats against his coalition of 105 seats. Further, none of the cross over members have been subjected to the newly formed Financial Crimes Investigation Department (FCID), which is on an open witch hunt of those associated with the previous government of President Rajapakse.

With the manipulatively accumulated majority in Parliament Wickremasinghe has gone about systematically destroying the parliamentary democracy in Sri Lanka, by

- appointing a Leader of the Opposition Sambandan who has the support of an insignificant coalition 19 coalesced minority in a Parliament of 225. This appeasement action was to satisfy the popular buzzword of post conflict 'reconciliation'
- obstructing at each turn, a Presidential inquiry into Sri Lanka's greatest bank heist of all times - the Central Bank bond scam. A scam done with the connivance of the PMs own hand- picked Singaporean Governor of the Central Bank Arjun Mahendran. It is alleged by a Minister that scammed loot also found its way to PMs political party which was in financial straits having lost over 25 successive elections, national, provincial and local government.
- obstructing and delaying for over 20 months, the holding of the local government elections throughout the island nation for the fear of a tsunami of a backlash on his party
- attempting to foist upon the people a whole new Constitution without a electoral mandate
- offering the selloff/ lease out on 99 year leases to India and China swathes of prime land near the strategic ports of Trincomalee and Hambantota
- muffling the opposition and the voice in Parliament with the help of the Speaker, who is his own party deputy, by deviously and drastically curtailing the allocated speaking times of all opposition MPs

- use of brute force against democratic protests by disabled servicemen, university students, workers and rallies opposed to his views
- selective targeting of the opposition and the people with a special financial crimes investigations unit (FCID) that has been not found any of the alleged sharks and mega scams for over two years, and clinically avoiding rogues who have crossed over
- promoting the scamming of public funds by open robbery allowing parliamentarians to sell their duty free car permits in the open market, effectively pocketing 30 million rupees (AUD 270,000) of state funds per permit sold. A second hearing of the scam is listed by the Supreme Court in mid-February on a public interest litigation lodged by a citizen.
- A report by the Sri Lanka's Auditor General has supported the Parliamentary Committee on Public Enterprise (COPE) findings, and also with regard to the Central Bank bond scam, and Wickremasinghe's governing party has been accused of attempting to take edge off the COPE report. Opposition MPs also accuse the Prime Minister of attempting to shield the former Governor of the Central Bank.
- The Financial Crimes Investigations Department (FCID) which is ever ready to investigate misuses of state vehicles and ready to lock up ex Ministers for such actions, has been strangely silent on the Australian Federal Police finding on the Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation's adventure in the alleged bribery and inducement paid to the current President Maithripala Sirisena's office when he was a Minister in the previous government.

As alleged in the Parliament day in and day out, Wickremasinghe has successfully through inducements and perks to opposition MPs 'has effectively formed a manipulative democracy, for the survival of the President and himself for the elected terms of office.

He has silenced the media by issuing regular threats to the editors and media owners, and has openly named media personnel during his Parliamentary speeches.

Our views are expressed not with an aim to disparage the great Nation of Sri Lanka, but to reverse the destruction of the parliamentary democracy in Sri Lanka by these fake paragons of democracy.

It is with deeply sad hearts we wish to inform all Australian Parliamentarians and Media to exercise vigilance and due diligence in their dealing with the above named persons who extol the virtues of democracy and portray themselves as the paragons of democracy to the world.

Wickremasinghe has an exceptional myopic view of the world. It is appropriate to question his first short sighted political expediency as Prime Minister. In his exuberance being nominated as the prime minister he attempted to score political points by rubbishing the well-considered successful bold steps taken by the Australia to save the lives of Sri Lankan 'boat people'.

We give below the Guardian Report on the connected incident which was purely based on Ranil Wickremasinghe's obscurantist and opportunist views.

Quote

Australia secured asylum deal by staying 'silent' on rights abuses: Sri Lanka PM

Posted on February 25th, 2015

Courtesy - The Guardian

Prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe says former president (Mahinda Rajapakse) agreed to help stop boats carrying asylum seekers if Australian government kept.

Ranil Wickremesinghe said Australian prime minister Tony Abbott's close relationship with former president Mahinda Rajapaksa was 'a mystery' to Sri Lankans.

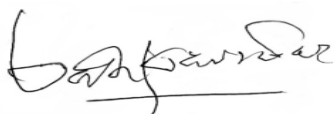
Australia stayed silent on alleged human rights abuses in Sri Lanka in exchange for cooperation in cracking down on people-smuggling, Colombo's new prime minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said on Monday.

Wickremesinghe said former president Mahinda Rajapaksa had agreed to help stop boats carrying asylum seekers leaving for Australia if Canberra kept quiet about alleged abuses committed by the previous regime.

In an interview with the Australian newspaper, Wickremesinghe said Australian prime minister Tony Abbott's close relationship with Rajapaksa, who was voted out of power last month, was "a mystery" to Sri Lankans. Unquote

In closing, please feel free to contact us for more authentic information on any of these issues.

Our organisation is dedicated totally to the restoring the democracy of the Parliament and to provide open avenues to the people of the land to exercise their democratic franchise.



Ranjith Soysa
Media Coordinator
For Global Sri Lankan Forum