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H.E. Mr Nihal Jayasinghe
High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
No.13, Hyde Park Gardens
London
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8 January 2009

Dear High Commissioner,

I am writing on behalf of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom, of which I am Chair, to express the Association's grave concern at the killing this morning of Mr Lasantha Wickramatunga, editor of the Sunday Leader.

We are deeply concerned that journalists in Sri Lanka who speak out clearly and fearlessly against various abuses not only face constant intimidation and threats but also actually put their lives at risk. We call on the Sri Lankan government to take immediate and decisive steps to bring to justice those who committed this appalling crime and to end impunity for violence against journalists.

I would be grateful if you could convey our concerns to your government.

Yours sincerely,

Lord Hannay of Chiswick

Chair of the UN Association of the United Kingdom
Former British Ambassador to the United Nations (1990-1995)