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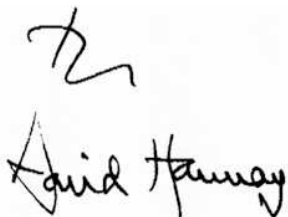
Rt Hon. David Miliband MP  
Secretary of State  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

12 November 2009

Dear David,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) to express our continuing deep concern about the plight of the many thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka who are still being held in camps many months after the termination of hostilities. We regret that the UN and its humanitarian agencies have been denied full access to the camps and their inmates; and we are disturbed that there is no objective way of validating or invalidating the many claims of human rights abuses to these inmates.

In these circumstances, we urge that the British government and its EU partners should only agree to continue the EU's special preferential access given to textile products from Sri Lanka if there is clear and verified evidence of a much more rapid return of the IDPs from the camps to their homes and of proper enquiries being carried out into all claims of human rights abuses. We have no desire at all to see Sri Lanka deprived of this special access to the EU market but we do feel it would be wrong to ignore the suffering of the IDPs.



Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
Chair, UNA-UK