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**முன்னிலை சோஷலிஸ கட்சி - இலங்கை**  
**FRONTLINE SOCIALIST PARTY - SRILANKA**

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30<sup>th</sup> July 2022

UN Resident Coordinator,  
UN Resident Coordinator Office,  
United Nations Compound,  
202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,  
Colombo 7

Dear madam,

**State Repression On the Non-Violent Protesters**

We request your attention to the government's severe repression of Sri Lanka's protesters. For a few months now, people have been protesting the undemocratic rule in Sri Lanka and the failure to provide basic needs of the people. Since January 2022, massive protests have erupted at the local level in the country. On March 31<sup>st</sup>, People who surrounded the president's private house in the Colombo suburb carried out a protest and attacked. Since then, these protests started to escalate to a mass demonstration throughout the country on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of April. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, People gathered in Colombo and occupied the Galle Face Green, the landmark surrounded by many critical buildings in Colombo.

Since then, for more than 100 days, people have been occupying this Land. It is a massive mass struggle in the history of Sri Lanka as well as at the global level. The mass struggle was attacked brutally on the 9<sup>th</sup> by using thugs and goons. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the then prime minister, called their local and provincial councillors into temple trees with their thugs and goons that day. After giving them a speech, they have gone to attack the Peaceful protesters in Galle Face. Police walking with the thugs from Temple trees to Galle Face watched it while letting the goons attack peaceful protesters. The police had been ordered not to take action and let the thugs attack the protesters. The human rights commission in Sri Lanka has confirmed that the police had not taken the necessary steps to stop the thugs from protecting the protesters that day. And have ordered the police to compensate the victims. After the brutal attack, the people reacted, and many politicians' houses were attacked throughout the country. It is reported that 104 homes had been vandalised and 72 houses were completely burnt. Since then, brutal repression has been launched, and around 3500 people have been arrested throughout the country. The interim government, which does not have a legitimate mandate from the people, is trying to scare people through arbitrary arrests, especially by charging those at the forefront of those protests. But massive protests erupted against those arrests too.

The government is trying to abuse the acts such as the public property act to remand them for a long time without bailing them out. It was amidst this was happening, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Colombo to overthrow president Gotabhaya Rajapaksha on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Even by then, after the attack on May 9<sup>th</sup>, prime minister Mahinda Rajapaksha had resigned. Basil Rajapaksha, the former finance minister and the mastermind of all these attacks and the leading strategic planner of the government, had already resigned on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The repression continued; trains and buses had been stopped. Fuel stations had been ordered not to sell fuel for two days. A curfew was imposed and called the military shoot people who entered the city of Colombo. Amidst all these, people in hundreds of thousands came to Colombo. They surrounded the presidential house, and the president had to flee the country. The presidential residence and secretariat, the prime minister's official residence and the prime minister's administration fell into the hands of the people.

Since then, massive repression has been underway. With the resignation of President Gotabhaya Rajapaksha, the ruling party that still has a majority in the parliament fraudulently appointed Ranil