



European Union

Colombo, 5 December 2012

PRESS RELEASE

**LOCAL EUROPEAN UNION (EU) STATEMENT ON THE RULE OF
LAW IN SRI LANKA**

The European Union Delegation issues the following statement in agreement with the EU Heads of Mission in Sri Lanka:

“The European Union Delegation in Colombo is concerned by a number of recent developments in Sri Lanka surrounding the rule of law and individual freedoms.

The European Union looks to the Sri Lankan authorities to ensure that the independence of the judiciary is protected; that investigations into the large number of deaths at the Welikada prison are speedy and impartial; and that all citizens, including students, journalists and opposition politicians, are able to exercise their fundamental rights without impediment.

The European Union Delegation notes that several other domestic and international actors have also expressed concerns, including the Commonwealth Secretary General, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers and the Asian Human Rights Commission.”

END

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