



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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9th February 2012

Mr. Matthew Russell Lee
Inner City Press, Inc.

Dear Mr. Lee,

We are appalled that you continue to rely on misinterpretations, misrepresentations and unsubstantiated accusations to cast aspersions on members of the staff of this Mission. I wonder if this is your effort to emulate Goebbels – “even a lie repeated often enough becomes the truth”. But please consider the damage to reputation and character for which you must take responsibility.

I note that you have cited the POE Report on your most recent article, the Inner City Press, 8th February 2012, deceptively entitled ***"Ban Ki-moon tells Press alleged war criminal as UN Advisor was decided by States"***. As you might recall, Ambassador Shavendra Silva pointed out during UNCA's screening of "Lies agreed upon", that the POE report had inaccurately represented the facts with regard to the Divisions involved. Nowhere in paragraph 73 and 90 of the Report does it make any reference to his own Division being responsible for shelling the No Fire Zones or the PTK hospital. Perhaps staying close to the truth might make your story less attractive but it would be the decent thing to do.

Paragraph 171 on surrendees, the Report states that two terrorist leaders were allegedly seen walking towards the area controlled by 58 Division. Later the BBC had reported that they had been killed. From where you drew your conclusion that the 58th Division killed them remains a mystery.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name of the sender, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

As for the remarks in your article dated 8th February 2012 regarding Ambassador Silva's lawsuit, it appears that you intentionally or negligently tried to mislead the public by stating a blatant falsehood. For your own edification, the case against Ambassador Silva was dismissed on 8th February 2012 by the District Court of New York.

In the circumstances, I would like you, to correct the recent blogs that you have published. It would also be the decent thing to do.

Sincerely,



Waruna Sri Dhanapala
Counselor
for Permanent Representative

Cc: 1. Mr. Martin Nesirky, Spokesman for the Secretary-General
2. President/ UNCA