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Chambers

No. 35, Kaviratne Place,

Colombo 6,

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Hon. G.L Pieris
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Colombo

My Dear Minister,

Proposed abolishing of the Quazi Court System

I write on behalf of the Muslim Civil Society Alliance which comprises of several Muslim Organisations and individuals.

We are greatly alarmed by reports that steps are being taken to amend several provisions of the Muslim Personal Law. We understand that the Minister of Justice, the Hon. M.U.M Ali Sabry is due to present to the Cabinet today legislation designed to abolish the Quazi Court system. As you will no doubt appreciate the abolition of the Quazi Courts strikes at an essential component for the application of the Muslim Law on Marriage and Divorce that is in force in our country.

You will no doubt recall that at a working dinner hosted by you for Heads of Mission of Muslim countries in Colombo on November 30, 2021 you hailed the constructive role played by the Sri Lankan Muslim community both historically and in the recent political and social life in our country.

We were encouraged by the solemn commitment made by you on that occasion that Sri Lanka will continue to uphold our rich democratic traditions as a country where every person irrespective of his religion, ethnicity or race enjoys the freedom to express his identity by practising his own religion and is guaranteed his cultural and linguistic rights.

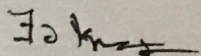
We were greatly encouraged by your assurance that the rich and varied legal tradition of Sri Lanka which included personal laws specific to the Muslim, Kandyan and Tamil communities, will continue to be retained.

We were all the more reassured that you chose to make these remarks in the presence of the Prime Minister the Honourable Mahinda Rajapakse who was present at the dinner as the Guest of Honour.

We are confident that you will continue to uphold the diversity that is Sri Lanka's strength and will take all possible steps to ensure that the Personal Laws of all communities including the Muslims will be protected in accordance with the pledge given by you to the envoys of Muslim countries.

We look forward to your positive response on the matter.

Yours Sincerely,



Faisz Musthapha
President's Counsel