



High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

HCL/HC/MED/01

16 November 2020

Mr Paul O'Neill
The Editor
The Irish Times Building,
PO Box 74, 24-28 Tara Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Dear Mr O'Neill,

Article titled "Republican 'fear of Donald Trump' undermining US democracy, Democrats say"

I write with reference to the article by Ms Suzanne Lynch titled "Republican 'fear of Donald Trump' undermining US democracy, Democrats say" which appeared in The Irish Times on 12 November 2020.

The above article cites a statement by the former President of Ireland and Chair of The Elders, Ms Mary Robinson as follows,

"It is shocking to have to raise concerns about US democratic processes as The Elders have previously commented on volatile and undemocratic situations in states such as Kenya, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe."

I wish to state that Sri Lanka is one of Asia's oldest and uninterrupted democracies where universal suffrage was granted in 1931. Successive Governments in Sri Lanka have always been elected democratically at elections held in a timely manner and subsequent transfer of power has always been swift, smooth, and peaceful.

There has never been a situation in Sri Lanka's electoral history where a party or person voted out at elections refusing to accept the people's verdict.

Therefore, Ms Robinson's reference to Sri Lanka is inaccurate and unacceptable.

It would be appreciated if action is taken to publish this clarification with the same prominence afforded to the above article.

Yours sincerely,



Saroja Sirisena

High Commissioner

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