



LAWASIA SUPPORT FOR FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN SRI LANKA

Reports from Sri Lanka indicate developments that bring into question whether the laws governing free and fair elections, as well as the general laws of the country, are being properly observed by all sides during the lead up to the current presidential elections.

As an organisation committed to supporting the rule of law, LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific, records its concern at these reported developments, which have prompted the Council of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka to resolve unanimously to take all possible and proper action to support the conduct of free and fair elections and to prevent violations of the law during this process.

LAWASIA strongly supports the endeavours of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka and its members in this regard and emphasises that no person or authority stands above the law.

It calls upon the Election Commission to fulfil its mandate under the Sri Lankan Constitution in a robust and effective manner to ensure a free and fair election by prohibiting the misuse of official machinery and to direct all state agencies, including the Inspector General of Police, to ensure a strict compliance therewith.

It further calls on all government agencies to observe the requirements of the Election Commission so that presidential elections are able to take place peacefully, freely and with complete fairness to all candidates, in accordance with democratic principles.

Isomi SUZUKI
PRESIDENT

22 DECEMBER 2014