Mr Kamalesh Sharma

Commonwealth Secretary-General

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United Kingdom

Dear Secretary-General

As you prepare for the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, still set for Colombo in November, we recall the values and principles which all Commonwealth countries have committed to. These include the protection and promotion of human rights, freedom of expression and the rule of law.

In line with these values and principles, we call on you to show leadership and send a clear message to human rights victims and defenders throughout the Commonwealth that Sri Lanka’s human rights abuses will not be given a Commonwealth seal of approval.

Amnesty International urges you to:

* Publicly condemn Sri Lanka’s persistent failure to ensure justice for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to stop its attacks on civil society activists.
* Stop Sri Lanka from becoming the next Commonwealth Chair.

If the Commonwealth approves Sri Lanka as its Chair, it is approving of its human rights abuses.

Yours sincerely,