



High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

HCL/HC/MED/01

15 May 2020

Ms Elisabeth Ribbans
The Readers' Editor
The Guardian
Kings Place, 90 York Way
London N1 9GU

Dear Ms Ribbans,

Content of the article "Travel quiz: do you know your islands, Man Friday?" appeared on 15 May 2020.

I write with reference to the article "Travel quiz: do you know your islands, Man Friday?" by Liz Boulter appeared in the Guardian website on 15 May 2020.

'Sri Lanka' has been given as the correct answer to the second question of the above quiz - 'Eelam is an indigenous name for which popular holiday island?'. It further describes 'the full name of the island's recent military insurgency was LTTE – Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam'.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is an outfit which espoused terrorism, conscripted child combatants and is responsible for the deaths of democratically elected leaders and thousands of innocent civilians. It remains a proscribed outfit by 32 countries including the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. The word 'Eelam' refers to this group's ideology of creating a separate state in the North and the East of Sri Lanka which was introduced in 1976, and has never been used as an indigenous name for Sri Lanka.

It is questionable as to why the writer refers to a proscribed terrorist outfit and their ideology in a travel quiz. This appears to be a sinister attempt to propagate the ideology of a proscribed terrorist outfit. It also is a breach of the Editorial Code of your newspaper by providing inaccurate and unverified content.

It would be appreciated if action is taken to remove the above content from the article and an apology issued which should be afforded the same publicity as the erroneous article.

Yours sincerely,



Saroja Sirisena
High Commissioner

Encl: copy of the article referred.

Copy to: Ms. Katharine Viner, Editor-in-chief, The Guardian