



For Immediate Release

January 10, 2013

Canada Must Hold Sri Lankan Government Accountable

TORONTO– Liberal Leader Bob Rae made the following statement today on the Sri Lankan government’s impeachment proceedings against the country’s Supreme Court Chief Justice:

“We are gravely concerned by the Sri Lankan government’s highly controversial and unconstitutional impeachment proceedings against the country’s Chief Justice, Dr. Shirani Bandaranayake.

As recently raised by the Canadian Bar Association, the lack of due process and open attack on the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law are deeply troubling. They are part of a continuing deterioration of democracy in Sri Lanka and directly violate the Commonwealth's fundamental values.

The Liberal Party of Canada calls on the Minister of Foreign Affairs to immediately raise this issue with the Commonwealth Secretary-General and the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, whose mandate includes disciplining violations of the association’s basic principles.

As a member of the Commonwealth and the designated host of the 2013 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, Sri Lanka has a duty to uphold democracy and the rule of law. As they have failed to do so, Canada has an obligation to hold its government to account at the highest level.”

-30-

Contact:

Press Office

Office of the Liberal Leader

613-947-5100