

DER BOTSCHAFTER
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND
THE AMBASSADOR
OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Colombo, 24.01.2017

Hon. W.D.J. Seneviratne
Minister of Labour and Trade Union Relations
Kirula Rd,
2nd Floor, Labour Secretariat,
Colombo - 05.

Honorable W.D.J. Seneviratne,

I have received the attached letter from Valter Sanches, Secretary General of the Geneva based IndustriALL Global Union Federation mentioning the apparent disregard of labour and trade union rights by Sri Lankan Companies (ATG Ceylon Pvt /ATG Occupation Ltd) based in the Katunayake Free Trade Zone and also the alleged failure of Sri Lankan authorities to enforce compliance with the respective legal provisions. In 2016 different NGOs already had complained on the situation in the Katunayake Free Trade Zone.

For Germany respecting the standards of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)- to which both Germany and Sri Lanka are signatories- is an important element not only to prevent unfair labour practices and guarantee freedom of association for trade unions but also to ensure a peaceful and sustainable environment for successful and sustainable economic development. The respect for ILO standards is also key to ensure a sustainable investment climate for foreign investors.

I trust that your Ministry will ensure all relevant standards and procedures are being respected in the upcoming vote.



Jörn Rohde

Cc: Hon. Ranil Wickremasinghe, Prime Minister
Hon. Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
H.E. Tung-Lai Margue, Ambassador of EU Delegation