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பாராளுமன்றம்
PARLIAMENT

13 September 2026

H.E. Dr. Tulia Ackson
President
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Ms. Anda Filip
Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Your Excellency / Madam Secretary General,

Request for urgent attention concerning parliamentary privilege, freedom of speech and the impartiality of the parliamentary privilege process in Sri Lanka

I write as a Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka to bring to the attention of the Inter-Parliamentary Union a matter which, in my respectful submission, directly concerns the protection of parliamentary democracy, the rights and privileges of Members of Parliament, freedom of speech in Parliament and the independence and impartiality of parliamentary institutions.

I am a **long-serving Member of Parliament with nearly twenty years of parliamentary service** and have served in successive Parliaments since 2004. I have also previously served as **Chief Minister of the North Western Province, a Cabinet Minister and a State Minister**. I currently serve as a Member of Parliament for the Kurunegala District and as a **senior political leader within the broader Samagi Jana Sandanaya (SJS) coalition, of which the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) is a principal constituent**. I have also led the political faction representing the Sri Lanka Freedom Party within the Samagi Jana Sandanaya.

On **10 September 2026**, I submitted a Privilege Question concerning the continued holding of office by the Hon. Dr. Jagath Wickramaratne, Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka, while a CIABOC investigation is reportedly being conducted concerning matters relating to the exercise of his official functions.

I attach the **English translation of my Privilege Question dated 09 September 2026**, which sets out the factual and legal grounds in detail.

The Privilege Question was intended to be dealt with through the established parliamentary privilege mechanism and ultimately considered by the **Committee on Ethics and Privileges**.

However, on **10 September 2026**, when I requested permission to raise the matter in Parliament, the Hon. Speaker **refused to permit me to present it and stated that he wished to study the matter himself**.

This is of particular concern because the complaint directly concerns the conduct and position of the Speaker himself.

The fundamental principle of *nemo iudex in causa sua* requires that a person should not determine a matter in which he or she has a direct personal interest. I respectfully submit that the Speaker's personal involvement in deciding whether a privilege complaint against himself should proceed raises an obvious and serious question of institutional impartiality.

The Parliament of Sri Lanka has a **Committee on Ethics and Privileges** for the consideration of questions of privilege. My Privilege Question specifically requests that the matter be referred to that Committee for consideration and investigation.

I am therefore concerned that preventing the Privilege Question from proceeding through the appropriate parliamentary mechanism may undermine the very parliamentary safeguards established to protect Members of Parliament.

There is a further serious matter. While speaking during a debate on another matter, I attempted to raise the substance of the Privilege Question, but the Hon. Speaker stopped me from continuing my speech.

The **Act no. 21 of 1953, Parliament (Powers and Privileges) Act** expressly protects freedom of speech, debate and proceedings in Parliament.

In these circumstances, I respectfully request the IPU, as the global organisation dedicated to promoting representative democracy and strong parliaments, to take appropriate steps within its mandate to:

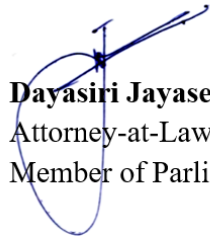
- take note of the circumstances described above;
- assess whether the parliamentary privileges and freedom of speech of a Member of Parliament have been adequately protected;

- encourage the Parliament of Sri Lanka to ensure that the Privilege Question is considered by the appropriate **Committee on Ethics and Privileges**, rather than being determined by the Speaker who is himself the subject of the complaint;
- encourage an impartial and transparent examination of the allegations and procedural circumstances; and
- monitor the matter, as appropriate, from the perspective of parliamentary democracy, Members' rights and institutional independence.

I respectfully emphasise that I am not asking the IPU to prejudge the allegations against the Hon. Speaker. My request is for an **impartial parliamentary process and protection of the institutional rights and privileges of Members of Parliament**.

I would be grateful if the IPU could give this matter its appropriate consideration.

Yours faithfully,



Dayasiri Jayasekara

Attorney-at-Law

Member of Parliament for the Kurunegala District

Enclosure:

English Translation of the Privilege Question dated **09 September 2026**.