



BAR HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Dear members,

The BHRC welcomes 2013 with the beginning of new Chair, Kirsty Brimelow QC, and a recently elected [executive committee](#). As before, we hope to work with as many of you as possible throughout this year and always welcome your feedback and ideas, so please do not hesitate to get in contact with the BHRC Project Coordinator, [Illari Aragon](#).

JANUARY BHRC STATEMENTS

SRI LANKA: Impeachment of Chief Justice

On the 2nd January, the BHRC voiced its concern at the circumstances surrounding the impeachment motion of the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, Shirani Bandaranayake, and at reports of attacks against the judiciary and the legal profession in that country. To access the BHRC Press Release click [here](#).

INDIA: Bar Council and BHRC joint statement of concern

On the 7th January, the Bar Council and the BHRC released a joint statement expressing concern at reports that the Saket Bar Association and the Delhi Bar Association have resolved not to represent the men charged with rape and murder of a 23 year old student. To access the BHRC Press Release click [here](#).

SRI LANKA: Further Statement on Impeachment of Chief Justice

On the 17th January, the BHRC released a further statement raising concerns at the decision of the President of Sri Lanka, Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, to remove the Chief of Justice of that country following a parliamentary procedure which the Supreme Court ruled to be unconstitutional. To access the BHRC Press Release click [here](#).

TURKEY: A further 15 Turkey's lawyers arrested

On the 19th January, the BHRC released an statement expressing concern at the arrest of a further 15 lawyers in Turkey on the 16th January 2013. The lawyers arrested are known for their work in representing persons accused of crimes against the state and terrorism, and members of minorities. This recent arrest follows the arrest in November 2011 of 46 lawyers who are now being prosecuted on charges alleging association with a terrorist organisation. To access the BHRC Press Release click [here](#).

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

"The impeachment of the Chief Justice of Sri Lanka"

The BHRC will be soon releasing details of the upcoming public seminar which will address the impeachment process and removal of Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, and explore the constitutional implications of the situation, among other aspects. The event will take place in February and have the distinguished participation Dr. Nihal Jayawickrama. **Details to be announced soon!**
