



Pic by Samantha Perera

# Upholding democracy way out of UNHRC: CBK

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GOOD GOVERNANCE

The Sri Lankan Government and the people should work according to internationally-accepted democratic practices to prevent any negative fall-out from the US-led resolution to be taken up at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), former President Chandrika Kumaratunga said yesterday.

“ Sri Lanka will be saved if the Government and the people work together to uphold universally accepted norms of democratic governance

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She expressed these views when journalists asked her whether she would play a role in saving the country from any international intervention resulting from the UNHRC resolution.

“If the Government and the people work to uphold universally accepted norms of democratic governance, the country will be saved,” she told journalists after meeting Opposition United National Party (UNP) Leader Ranil Wickremesinghe at his office in Colombo to discuss the fostering of religious harmony.

Ms. Kumaratunga said the mention of religious harmony in Sri Lanka in the draft resolution submitted to UNHRC was significant because she too had decided to work for the same objective through her organisation known as the South Asia Policy and Research Institute (SAPRI). She said it did not matter who had sponsored the resolution because it was being taken up at a UN body. With reference to her discussion with Mr. Wickremesinghe, she said she intended to talk to him to obtain UNP support to foster religious harmony in Sri Lanka.

Ms. Kumaratunga said she was also keen to speak to President Mahinda Rajapaksa, Prime Minister D.M. Jayaratne and a few other ministers to obtain their support for this campaign being spearheaded by her.

“ The mention of religious harmony in Sri Lanka in the draft resolution submitted to UNHRC was significant