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The Editor
THE STRAITS TIMES

Dear Sir,

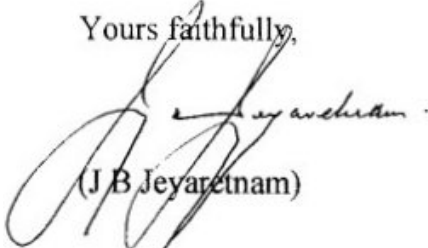
Has not one reason been overlooked in your report (ST 16 May) on the declining number of lawyers willing to take up criminal cases.

It is that our criminal justice system and the criminal law does not afford the accused a fair chance of being acquitted. Is it not possible that lawyers feel frustrated under such a system and so avoid taking up criminal cases.

I said at a forum recently that we are taking a calculated risk of sending innocent persons to prison and, worse still, to their death.

Our criminal justice system is badly in need of reform. If this is carried out, lawyers may regain confidence in the system and be willing to take up criminal cases.

Yours faithfully,



(J B Jeyaretnam)