



வலிந்து காணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் உறவுகளின் சங்கம்

வடக்கு கிழக்கு மாகாணங்கள்

Association for Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances  
North & East Provinces

கண்டி வீதி, கிலினொச்சி

Kandy Road, Kilinochchi

January 18, 2022

To:

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon,

Minister of State for South and Central Asia, United Nations & the Commonwealth  
Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

Dear Lord Ahmad,

On behalf of the families of the enforced disappeared we write to protest over your article in the Daily Mirror newspaper setting out the agenda for your visit to Sri Lanka this week.

<https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Britain-says-Sri-Lanka-needs-good-governance-and-equal-rights-for-all/172-229147> It's clear from this article that your priority is engagement with a State that has and continues to violate human rights rather than any empathy for the victims.

At no point do you mention the burning ongoing issue of enforced disappearance in Sri Lanka – the country with the second largest number of cases reported to the UN. We represent the Tamil families who lost their loved ones most recently in vast numbers, particularly at the end of the war in 2009 when they surrendered to the Sri Lankan Army. The disappeared include babies and children. No answer has been given regarding their fate.

It is imperative that you ask all those you meet on this trip, including the President of Sri Lanka, who was defence secretary during the war, what happened to our loved ones.

Imagine if it was your child who disappeared and just asking what happened meant you were insulted, abused, threatened and told it was your fault you didn't have more information about who took them. We have been treated with utter disrespect for the last thirteen years and your emphasis on engagement and the economy – and only a passing reference to accountability - is just another abuse we suffer.

Do you really think this government is going to engage seriously with the past through the Geneva process? We want the UK government to help us achieve justice using universal jurisdiction cases as Germany did for the Syrians – and in the meantime sanction the military men involved in enforced disappearance.



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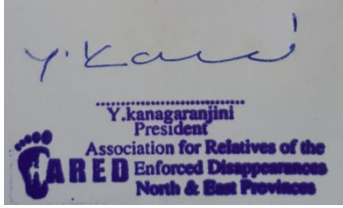
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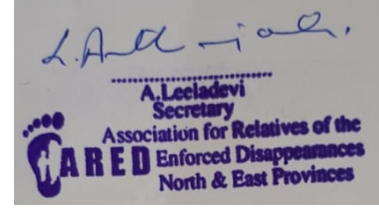
கண்டி வீதி, கிலினொச்சி

Kandy Road, Kilinochchi

Yours Sincerely,



President



Secretary

Cosigned by District Leaders

T. Selvarani – Ampara District  
A. Amalanayaki – Batticaloa District  
C. Ilankothai – Jaffna District  
K. Kokulavani – Kilinochchi District  
M. Chandra – Mannar District  
M. Easwari – Mullaitivu District  
S. Davi – Trincomalee district  
S. Saroyini – Vavuniya district

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