

<u>வலிந்து காணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் உற</u>வுகளின் சங்கம்

வடக்கு கிழக்கு மாகாணங்கள்

Association for Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances North & East Provinces

> கண்டி வீதி, கிளிநொச்சி Kandy Road, Kilinochchi

The Prime minister, No 10, Downing Street, London United Kingdom

30.08.2022

Continuing struggle of the relatives of the Enforced Disappearance even after its 2000th day

We, the relatives of the Enforced Disappearance in the North and East of Sri Lanka have been engaged in continuous struggle in search of our loved ones for the past 2018 days, who have been handed over, surrendered themselves, abducted, taken for interrogation and forcibly disappeared. Initially, in order to seek Justice from the Sri Lankan government, we met former president Maithripala Sirisena and demanded Justice. He promised that our demands are justifiable and fair, and he will fulfill his promise. But he cheated us by not fulfilling his promise. Because of this and because of the racist attitude of the Sri Lankan judiciary "One law for Sinhalese, one law for Tamils" (example: abolition of the death sentence to Sunil Ratnayake (who was involved in the mass killing where 08 people including children were killed) by awarding general amnesty and promotion by the Sri Lankan president. Since we came to the conclusion that fair justice will not be meted out from the Sri Lankan government, we decided to focus our struggle towards the international World seeking Justice from them. The 138 parents who joined us in the struggle died without knowing the whereabouts of their loved ones and without finding Justice. But we continue to fight with confidence towards International Community.

Former president Gotabaya ruthlessly declared that a large number of our relatives, who had surrendered and handed over during the final war of 2009 alive, were died. This includes 29



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infants and children. Gotabaya played a major role in the disappearance of our loved ones as the then defense secretary and issuing orders and carrying out pre- planned genocide.

If he had an interest to bring out the truth, he could have interrogated the military officers who were in charge for the military garrisons at that time. He himself was the defense secretary and carried out genocide of the Tamil people through the war against humanity. His brother Mahinda Rajapakse was the then president and paved the way for all his atrocities. All the members of the Rajapakse family and their trusted army commanders tortured, killed, raped, maimed the Tamils, looted the property of Tamils and destroyed our community.

The Sri Lankan government which committed the above atrocities had dragged the time limit for accountability in accordance with the UN resolution 30 /1. The government of Sri Lanka did the same (during the negotiation for the solution to the ethnic problem) as its strategy even in the past.

Therefore, please do not waste any more time expecting the government of Sri Lanka that will hold responsibility for accountability. All those involved should be brought to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for all the crimes committed against the Tamils and Justice should be meted out. That will be the greatest help that the UN and the International Community can do to our last lamented parents and for us who are counting our days.

Not only that, our Tamil race has been subjected to genocide since 1956. Non recurrence can be brought about by giving the perpetrator proper punishment and not by dragging the time. The punishment given should be a lesson for those who want to commit genocide. Let it be our children who were finally forcibly disappeared by the Sinhala state. Don't let this continue for our grandchildren and our descendants.



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As Tamils, we want to live independently with our identities and if anybody really wants to solve the problem, the demand of the parties concerned should be known.

Contrary to the promises made to us during the elections by our Tamil parliamentarians, they're working on the issue of victims and on the issue of Tamil Rights (political solution) with the aim of self-gain. Therefore, their opinion should not be taken into account as a public opinion, but our victim's aspiration should prevail in relation to the disappeared.

Through this struggle we would like to reiterate the following demands;

- We want to see the judgment of Justice before the end of our lives. Therefore, all those responsible for the genocide against us, including Mahinda and Gotabaya should be brought to Justice at the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- 2. The International Community should come forward to arrest Gotabaya Rajapaksa, through the international judicial mechanism regardless of which country he is hiding and bring him before the International Criminal Court for the genocide committed by him against the Tamil people.
- 3. Even today, the Sinhala Army, which is responsible for the disappearance of our children, is occupying our Lands. It is the selfsame Army that is constantly threatening us and continues to keep us in a state of panic. This Army must be removed from our lands immediately.
- 4. Following the war of aggression against us, the Sinhala Buddhist government is rapidly carrying out Sinhala Buddhistisation by occupying our lands and Temples. This activity should be stopped immediately, and the land should be handed over to their rightful owners.



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- 5. Our relatives languishing as Tamil political prisoners in jail should be released immediately without any condition.
- 6. The Tamil people entitled to self-determination should have the opportunity to decide their own political faith. A permanent political solution must be provided through and internationally monitored referendum among the people and their descendants who lived in the Northern and Eastern provinces on and before February 4th, 1948

Thank you.



President



Secretary

Cosigned by District Leaders

- T. Selvarani Ampara District
- P. Padmavathi 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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