



All Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils
in collaboration with
British Tamils Forum

Hosts the 'APPG for Tamils' Annual Dinner 2015
'Tamil people's right to Democracy & Justice in Sri Lanka'
On 29th January 2015

Venue: The Royal Horseguards Hotel, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EJ
Time: From 7PM to 10 PM

Nearly six years ago in May 2009 the war ended in the island of Sri Lanka, raising wide spread optimism for dawn of peace in the island. According to UN reports, over 70,000 civilians were killed in just the final phase of that war mainly due to shelling and aerial bombardment by the Sri Lankan armed forces. 146,679 people still remain unaccounted for at the end of the war.

Having brought the war to an end by exterminating a substantial part of the Tamil population, the Sinhala state is continuing its destruction of the Tamil nation at an alarming pace. The international community having supported the Sri Lankan state in its war efforts based on its promise to address the root cause of the conflict is beginning to see that there is no will on the part of the Sinhala state to do so.

The Role of UN since May 2009

Soon after the end of the war, the UNHRC passed a resolution praising Sri Lanka for ending the war, oblivious to the fact that the Sinhala state had committed mass murder of genocidal proportions against the Tamil people. It took another 5 years of continuing campaign by human rights campaigners armed with irrefutable evidence, to change the UN position which conceded that it had failed to protect the civilians and that there are serious accountability issue. After two UN reports and three UN Human Rights Council resolutions, the International Community is beginning to see the true genocidal nature of the Sri Lankan State's war against the Tamil people in the Island.

In November 2013, during the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meeting (CHOGM) in Colombo, our Prime Minister David Cameron visited the North of the island and saw first-hand, the plight of the Tamil people still waiting for news of their loved ones. The Prime Minister on his return called for an **International Independent Investigation** concurring with calls by the Tamil people and human rights organisations world over.

With the support of the UK government, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution in March 2014 requesting the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights "to undertake a comprehensive



investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka". The Council requested the High Commissioner to present a comprehensive report, resulting from that investigation, to its 28th session in March 2015.

The Sri Lankan regime has come under heavy criticism for its outright rejection to co-operate with the investigations into war crimes and crimes against humanity. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said on Friday, 7th of November 2014 that ***"The Government of Sri Lanka has refused point blank to co-operate with the investigation despite being explicitly requested by the Human Rights Council to do so," "Such a refusal does not, however, undermine the integrity of an investigation set up by the Council – instead it raises concerns about the integrity of the government in question. Why would governments with nothing to hide go to such extraordinary lengths to sabotage an impartial international investigation?"*** he added.

UN instituted investigation is now underway despite total blockade by the Sri Lankan state and its continuing intimidation and incarceration of potential witnesses.

What is next?

British government has a moral responsibility and a duty to the British Tamil people to ensure that their kith and kin still in their ancestral Homeland are protected from the genocidal Sri Lankan state. The total denial of democratic space to the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan state is causing more and more Tamil people to flee the island on a daily basis and seek refuge in far-away places including Britain.

We request the political leadership and the members of parliament to take effective measures to address the issues affecting the Tamil people:-

1. **Justice for the war crimes and crimes against humanity** - To consider all options available to demand the Sri Lankan Government to cooperate with OISL and through a UN supported resolution to set up an international tribunal to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity and the intent of Genocide during the conflict, like those established for Rwanda and Yugoslavia.
2. **Political solution to address the root cause to the conflict** - To conduct an internationally monitored referendum amongst the Tamil people living in the island and the Tamil Diaspora, consisting of those displaced due to the war, to establish their democratic wish on exercising their Right to Self Determination.
3. **The Tamil people in the UK call on our government to put pressure on the Sri Lankan regime** by enforcing targeted sanctions, such as travel bans and asset freeze on Sri Lankan military personnel and politicians accused of complicity in the perpetration of war crimes and crimes against humanity. Regardless of political leadership and the regime change in Sri Lanka, the accountability process should continue until justice is delivered to the victims of these genocidal crimes committed against Tamils.

We kindly request the Tamil Community in the UK to help us to achieve our objectives by supporting the 'APPG for Tamils' Annual Dinner 2015 to be held at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EJ on the 29th January 2015 from 7 pm.

Please donate to the British Tamils Forum (www.tamilsforum.com):

Account Name: Tamils Forum UK Limited.
Sort Code: 09 01 28
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