

OFFICE OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE
Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam

நாடு கடந்த தமிழீழ அரசாங்கத்தின்
இடைக்கால முதன்மை நிறைவேற்றுனர் அலுவலகம்

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TGTE Embarking on Struggle with Determination

For immediate release

June 17, 2010

A month after the inauguration and first sitting of the Assembly of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam, it is imperative of the moment that we share with our people TGTE's progress and the approaches it is taking.

The fact that the first session took place in Philadelphia at the same site where the US Declaration of Independence was promulgated and the US Constitution was drafted symbolized to the world our passion for freedom. While the Government of Sri Lanka proclaimed that they have crushed the Tamils' struggle for freedom and was engaged in an anniversary *Tamasha* (celebration), we demonstrated our thirst for freedom to the world through the setting up of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam. The manner in which we linked elected members of TGTE situated at venues in London and Geneva to the first session of the Assembly held at the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia over the three days in May portends the transnational character of the struggle we intend to take further.

The first session of the Assembly saw the election of an interim executive committee along with several action committees in order to address the immediate concerns until the time a formal constitution of the TGTE is drafted and ratified. Numerous messages of goodwill containing advice and meaningful suggestions have been received from our people since the conclusion of the first sitting of the Assembly. We are humbled by the confidence placed by our people on the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam and the expectations they hold in the elected body. We want to convey at this juncture that we value and respect their views.

Our struggle is a long and hard one, but we must embark on that struggle with determination. It is to be noted that the powers which determine the course of events in international relations presently do not support an independent Tamil Eelam as the just solution to the Tamil National Question. International relations of these powers are based on their own national interests and they insist on pursuing their interests by seeing Sri Lanka as one entity. Under such circumstances, it would not be prudent to expect from these powers a support base for the establishment of an independent Tamil Eelam. We are, therefore, compelled to take this reality into account when formulating our plans of action.

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Even while governments act on the basis of their interests, it is sobering to note that civil society respects and recognizes democratic ideals and moral norms. It is, therefore, imperative that we build a support base in the international community to bring the guilty to justice and to vindicate our rights on the basis of our right to self-determination and as a People that is victim of ongoing genocide. International law allows People subject to genocide the right to important remedies, including the establishment of an independent state to guarantee their very physical survival. The Tamils as a People are at grave risk from ongoing genocide by the racist Sri Lankan regime.

While we make progress in garnering support among the international community, opportunities will come our way to persuade governments to advance policies favorable to the Tamils. We also should be cognizant of the fact that in an ever-changing international order, there will be opportunities for the powers' interests and our interests to converge.

Under these circumstances, we do not expect a change in the world scene turning in our favour in the immediate future. In spite of that, we are determined to seize every opportunity to advance our struggle, and we are formulating our tactics in accordance with that belief.

We are drawing up our plans of action on the one hand to cultivate relationships with governments, and on the other hand to garner support among the people in our new home countries. With this in mind, convenors have been appointed to the various committees and planning work has been initiated. These committees will formulate immediate and long term plans in consultation with experts to be appointed to these committees. When the TGTE's constitution is drafted, ratified and permanent bodies are established, these committees will be merged with them. The titles of the different working committees with the names of the Convenors follow:

1. Committee for Political and Constitutional Affairs - **Pon Balarajan**
Constitutional Affairs Co-ordinator - **Murali Sivananthan**
2. Committee for Education, Culture, Health and Sports - **Selvarajah Sellathurai**
3. Committee for Economic Welfare and Development - **I. A. Selvanathan**

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4. Committee for International Lobbying

Intelligentsia

- **Gerard Francis**

Political Leaders

- **Thanikasalam Thayaparan**

Media

- **Kulasegaram Esan**

5. Committee to Investigate Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity

- **Deluxon Morris**

6. Committee for the Welfare of Women, Children and Elderly - **Balambigai Murugadas**

7. Committee for Economic and Business Development - **Ponnambalam Maheshwaran**

8. Committee for the Welfare of the Families of Cadres and Martyrs - **Ruthirapathy Sekar**

9. Committee for the Release of POWs

- **Jeyamathy Sivasothy**

10. Committee for Natural Resource Development

- **Thavendra Rajah**

11. Committee for Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) and Refugees -

Muthukumarasamy Ratna

We appeal to individuals in the Diaspora who are interested in supporting the work of these committees as experts to come forward, offer their expertise and name their preferred committees by contacting us through our email address secretariat@tgte.org.

We are launching a campaign calling for an international investigation with a mandate to prosecute the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed against our people. As a first step in the endeavour, we are seeking the support of Heads of States for this campaign. In this connection, we will also take measures to continuously engage with government officials and the community at large regarding such an investigation. We will establish relationships with already existing Tamil organizations which are engaged in these issues and we will coordinate our activities with them.

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As part of our efforts to win international support, early this month two of our representatives participated on behalf of TGTE in a conference held in Belfast on self-determination, sponsored by the European Association of Lawyers for Democracy and World Human Rights, the Transitional Justice Institute and the University of Ulster. Our representatives expressed the suffering of our people and the gross injustice meted out to them. They also spoke about the legitimacy of our struggle.

TGTE representatives are involved in supporting Tamil refugees who have escaped from the clutches of the government of Sri Lanka. We are maintaining contacts with officials and activists in Malaysia and the TGTE has contacted three countries to develop safe havens for refugees in those countries.

The TGTE's Interim Executive Committee is meeting on a fortnightly basis. We will keep our electorate posted on the details of the action plans of the committees of the TGTE as they emerge.

It is hoped that before the end of September the Constitution will be drafted and the representatives of the TGTE will convene to debate the draft, ratify it and establish a permanent structure. During this period we also believe the process for electing the remaining members of TGTE will be completed.

The success of the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam depends on our determination and our unified actions. We hold each other's arms in firm embrace and spearhead the historical task ahead of us.



Visvanathan Rudrakumarn
Interim Chief Executive