



**T A F N Z**  
**TAMIL ACTION FRONT,**  
**NEW ZEALAND**  
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**URGENT MEDIA RELEASE**

**Hon. Mr. Murray McCully,**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Wellington.

Hon. Sir,

**CHOGM AND WAR CRIME SUSPECTS**

It is no news to you that Sri Lankan President as supreme commander of the security forces in Sri Lanka and the Service Chiefs along with the Defense Secretary are all accused of having committed war crimes during the war against the LTTE in Sri Lanka. These are highlighted in the report of the Panel of Experts appointed by the UN Secretary General and the exposures in Channel4, Al Jazeera and Headlines Today. Channel 4 was shown in NZ Parliament as well. You cannot say that you are not aware of these. It is well known worldwide due to the ruthlessness and brutality of the mass murders committed in the name of war – though it was unalloyed genocide ever recorded in history

When the name of Rear Admiral Tissara Samarasinghe was in the news media as possible Sri Lankan High Commissioner to Australia with coverage of New Zealand, we strongly objected to that appointment on grounds of his alleged involvement in war crimes. You were voiceless when Australia accepted him amidst strong protests from victims of his actions and human rights activists in Australia. Australia was insensitive to the protests made against an earlier appointment of Sri Lankan High Commissioner – the late Brig.Gen. Janaka Perera, the architect of the Chemmani Mass Grave among other heinous crimes. We protested even then and New Zealand was helpless when Australia accepted him.

Now, the Australian Chapter of the International Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Organizations and activists are all pressing the Australian Police to prosecute President Percival Mahinda Rajapakse, Rear Admiral Tissara Samarasinghe and Palita Kohana and Gothabaya

Rajapakse (if he were to come) when they come for the CHOGM Conference, under a law valid in Australia.

Incidentally we understand that President Percival Mahinda Rajapakse and his retinue will pass through Auckland and are scheduled to witness the Rugby Final Match. It is also being circulated that he will be accorded a dinner too. We would strongly urge you **not to accord them any diplomatic courtesies** as it would turn out to be an **indelible blot** on your clean sheet of valuing democracy, inherent dignity of every human being and the human rights dictum

The governance of Rajapakse Brothers and Associates in Sri Lanka is fast moving towards a fully militarized Government. In the Budget proposals for the next financial year, the highest allocation out of proportion especially in a claimed peace situation, is yet the highest ever. In the North alone there are an estimated 50,000 Army men and 5,000 Policemen. President Percival Mahinda Rajapakse claims they are doing developmental work. They are there destroying the culture of the Tamils, desecrating places of worship of the Hindus, Christians and Muslims, stealing costly statues of deities in Hindu temples, damaging statues of Lord Jesus and Mother Mary in Churches and a host of other ugly barbarian things. They are engaged in drug sales and show of blue films besides torture of women and girls, even sexually assaulting them. The recent episode of "*Grease Devils*" was designed and carried through to scare and oppress the Tamils because these were a devilish attack on women. When men gathered and protested they were hammered with poles, iron rods and what nots by the Army and Police as in Navanthurai in the heart of Jaffna city resulting in many men being admitted to hospital with broken limbs after refusing medical attention for several hours. Enraged by these barbaric oppressions, the Students of the Jaffna University mobilized a massive protest march in the Jaffna town condemning the shameless "*Grease Devil*" antics of the Army Intelligence units. Even Sinhalese students of the University joined in the protest. In revenge, the President of the University Students Union was waylaid and assaulted on the head by men on motorcycles with iron rods with intent to kill him - well known mobile Armed Army Intelligence personnel in the area. He luckily escaped death but is still in the Intensive Care Unit. The News Editor of the leading daily newspaper *Uthayan*, Kuganathan was also assaulted in the same fashion but he too escaped death. This is the "*Governance*" for the Tamils - dissent means death.

The ruling alliance started eliminating dissenting journalists like Lasantha Wickrematunge. An "*invented*" suspect, purposely a Tamil - Jesuthasan died in custody recently. It may be remembered how an innocent Tamil youth who was in a lodge in Colombo *en route* to a foreign country was kidnapped, shot dead and placed near where Minister Lalith Athulath Mudali was killed. This is the game to put the blame on the LTTE. It is said that Navy personnel were engaged to dump killed journalists and political opponents in the deep sea. Recently an attempt was made to house alleged LTTE suspects in detention in prisons, close to where former Army Commander Sarath Fonseka is held with a view to kill Sarath Fonseka and put the blame on the alleged LTTE suspects. Kill Fonseka, a potential political danger and intensify false propaganda about LTTE - kill two birds with one stone. Master plans to annihilate opposition. Fonseka's lawyer brought this plot to the notice of the Court and fortunately this was avoided.

What prevails in North- East is a deep rooted victor-vanquished mood. Every Sinhala visitor thinks he is bestowed by the current regime to trample the Tamils. There is hardly an iota of goodwill for any form of reconciliation, Recently armed robberies at night have become intensified in the North where there are so many Soldiers and Police on duty day and night. Very recently one of those caught in a robbery in Madduvil in the North is a Sinhalese student

admitted to the Jaffna University. He went to the University to study but then, see his mind-set to him Tamils are slaves. The Tamil National Alliance, acknowledged by US, UK, India and the EU and many International groups that matter as the Party representing Tamil interests, staged a non violent Satyagraha in Vavuniya protesting against plans of the Government to grab lands of the Tamils by cunning administrative measures. The Army and Police blocked the entrance to the venue and harassed the people and threatened them and chased them. It is a repetition of the past – unrelenting obstinacy not to listen and understand the Tamil grievances which led to armed self defense to counter armed State Oppression. From where is reconciliation going to come when armed oppression is always on.

During the first tenure of the incumbent President, four Tamil MPs and two former Tamil MPs were killed by paramilitary groups supporting the Government. During his current second tenure, attempts on the lives of three Tamil MPs were made. This alliance's governance relies on the might of the bullet and not the right of the ballot. It exploded openly when on the voting day in the Local Government elections early this month, rival groups within the ruling alliance resorted to bullets to settle their scores in the capital Colombo.

There are two Tamils showcased as Tamil Ministers – one was jailed for Visa fraud in UK and was accused of defrauding huge sums of money by the LTTE when he was Commander of the East. The other is evading an open warrant issued by the Chennai High Court on charges of murder, kidnapping for ransom and other criminal charges. An important State witness, a Policeman at that, is prevented from testifying in the case of the open daylight murder in a Temple on New Year day of the late MP Maheswaran. This is Mahinda "*Kriyawa*" (Action) though much boasting is done about Mahinda "*Chintana*" (ideology). Robbing State property, pilfering peoples money and absolute corruption are the hallmarks of this Government of Sri Lanka. 53 houses built on 12 lakhs of SL Rupees each for resettlement of IDPs are reported to be not worth even 6 lakhs each and are devoid of smoke chimney and water facilities. Gift packs for the resettled have been changed. Good Indian saris have been replaced with low cost Sri Lankan saris and even local spades in place of good quality Indian spades. Ministers and officials living on the hand outs for the IDPs – This is reconciliation in the "*Mahinda Chintana*"

Please therefore, support the moves at the CHOGM to:

1. Canvass support for the charging of the persons mentioned above in Australian Courts for war crimes.
2. Canvass support for initiating an independent international transparent inquiry into the charges of war crimes leveled against Sri Lanka.
3. Suspend Sri Lanka from the membership of the Commonwealth until they stop denying the charges of war crimes outright and start credible inquiries in earnest.
4. Appoint a Commissioner for Human Rights for the Commonwealth of Nations as there is a sliding down of principles by some member States from the accepted norms of the Commonwealth – the best example being Sri Lanka.

Yours Sincerely,



Neil Ahilakumaran  
Joint Coordinator