

01 June 2012  
London, United Kingdom

PETITION TO THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

**Eelam Tamils deeply concerned at the Commonwealth Secretariat's lack of commitment to the organisation's core values of human rights and rule of law**

**Since the British colonial rulers departed from the island then known as Ceylon, successive Sinhala-Buddhist leaders have advanced a protracted campaign of genocide against the Eelam Tamil nation. The latest and most brutal is the current president of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Rajapaksa, the invitation of whom to the Queen's Jubilee Lunch by the Commonwealth Secretariat is an insult to international law.**

Since 2008, under the leadership of their President and Commander in Chief, Mahinda Rajapaksa, Sri Lankan troops have murdered more than 40, 000 Eelam Tamils and made to disappear in excess of 147, 000 others.

In March 2011, a UN Experts Panel reported that Mr Rajapaksa's direction of war against the de-facto state established by Eelam Tamils in their homeland in north and east of the island as a "grave assault on the entire regime of international law".

Attention alone has not succeeded in convincing Mr Rajapaksa and his regime to change a mindset of centuries. In the misguided belief that the entire island belongs to the Sinhala-Buddhists, to date Sri Lankan forces are continuing to disappear Eelam Tamil youths, sexually assault women and children, and forcibly colonise traditional Tamil lands with Sinhalese settlers.

Despite growing calls from human rights groups and the UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights for an independent international investigation into the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Sri Lankan armed forces, Mr Rajapaksa has continued to resist any such measures designed to preserve international law.

The invitation of such an individual to a ceremonial lunch by the Commonwealth, which claims to be founded on values of human rights and rule of law, is most disturbing.

While many Sinhala-Buddhist leaders of the past have gone unpunished for their part in the genocide of Eelam Tamils, the vast amount of evidence stacked against Mr Rajapaksa, in the information era, should be seen as an opportunity to finally uphold international law and help halt the genocide.

In addition, Sri Lanka's membership of the Commonwealth needs to be evaluated. Its occupation of the Tamil homeland and the systematic campaign of genocide against the Eelam Tamil nation has long made Sri Lanka a candidate for immediate suspension from the organisation.

Eelam Tamils and their friends gathered outside the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, on Friday, 01 June 2012, urge the Secretariat to immediately withdraw the invitation extended to Mr Rajapaksa for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Lunch and the organisation to take measures to suspend Sri Lanka until it ends its military occupation of the Tamil homeland.

Signed

Tamil Coordinating Committee United Kingdom (Event Coordinators)

[info@tcc-uk.com](mailto:info@tcc-uk.com) | [www.tcc-uk.com](http://www.tcc-uk.com)