

22 July 2012
London, United Kingdom

PETITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Sri Lanka should be suspended from the Olympic Movement

Sri Lanka's campaign of systematic genocide against Eelam Tamils is known worldwide. Eelam Tamils are of the view that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has taken no meaningful steps to suspend the country from the Olympic Movement, despite continued atrocities for decades. Recent highlights, including the March 2011 report of the UN Experts Panel, provide substantial evidence of Sri Lanka's continuing violations of international law and fundamental values of the Olympic Movement.

Sri Lanka state has been orchestrating a campaign of genocide against the Eelam Tamil nation in their traditional homeland, encompassing the north and east of the island now known as Sri Lanka. The involvement of a dozen Sinhala-Buddhist regimes in the state crime of genocide, since the British departed from the island in 1948, have been brought to the attention of the IOC in the past.

Olympism, fundamental values of the Olympics, seeks to "build a better world through sport". For Sri Lanka, Olympics have always provided a venue to share a stage with the civilised world, hide the state's crimes of the past and gain subtle international legitimacy for the continued genocide of the Eelam Tamil nation on the island.

While the Olympic Movement describes its goal as to "contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practised in accordance with Olympism and its values", in the country of Eelam Tamils, youth have borne the brunt of crimes committed by the occupying Sri Lankan military. The Vanni region, the last of the de-facto state of Eelam Tamils to have been captured by the Sri Lankan military, the occupying force, is void of its youth: young men and women were majority in the more than 40, 000 killed, 147, 000 disappeared and 12, 000 detained in 2009 alone.

Sri Lanka's participation in the Olympics, which gives legitimacy to a state engaged in the crime of genocide, is a political abuse of sport and is an infringement of the Olympic Charter. Instead, the games should "place sport at the service of humanity" by using the stage to bring world attention to the plight of a nation of people faced with a protracted campaign of genocide.

Eelam Tamils and their friends gathered outside the Olympic Park in Stratford, London, the venue of the 2012 games, on 22 July 2012, appeal to the IOC to immediately suspend Sri Lanka from the Olympic Movement. Sri Lanka's membership of the Olympic Movement should only be reconsidered when it halts the genocide of the Eelam Tamil nation and recognises their right to exercise sovereignty over their traditional homeland.

Signed

Tamil Coordinating Committee United Kingdom
(Event Coordinators)

info@tcc-uk.com | www.tcc-uk.com