

20/03/2013

### **Australian Tamil Youth *Fast-in-Solidarity* with Students in Tamil Nadu, India**

The *Tamil youth* movements in *Australia* will commence a fast on Thursday 21 March 2013, at 6.00pm at Prince Alfred Park (Parramatta, NSW) to show our solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu, India who have embarked on a hunger-strike in protest of the weak wording of the US-led draft resolution on Sri Lanka at 22nd UN Human Rights Council (HRC) Session.

Our *Fast-in-Solidarity* is to express that we stand firm with them on the fundamental principle of justice and an independent homeland for the Eelam Tamil people. We agree with them that the events unfolding in Sri Lanka are far more sinister than war crimes and violations of human rights, but a systematic coordinated act of genocide.

We join in their criticisms of the UN HRC draft resolution on Sri Lanka and agree that it fails to acknowledge and address the ongoing and systemic oppression and genocide of the Eelam Tamil people.

**We support the demands set out by the Tamil students currently on hunger-strike in Tamil Nadu which include:**

- An independent International inquiry into alleged War Crimes monitored by the UN;
- A UN-led referendum (amongst the Tamil Diaspora and the Tamil people living in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island of Sri Lanka) for an independent Tamil homeland;
- Economic sanctions imposed by UN-members states against Sri Lanka.

In addition, we find the accelerated militarisation and Sinhalisation of the Tamil homeland, including the changing of names of Tamil villages to Sinhala names, destruction of Tamil historical landmarks and installation of Sinhala-Buddhist structures in Tamil areas is an act by the Sri Lankan State of structural genocide of the Tamil people.

We believe the Sri Lankan government's own internal report, the *Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC)*, released more than a year ago, to be a white-wash and its recommendations to be lacking in genuineness. Instead there continues to be reports of ongoing disappearances, torture and sexual abuse by police and military, and deaths in custody of Eelam Tamils, and the continuing executions and murder by Sri Lankan Navy of Tamil fishermen from Tamil Nadu. This clearly indicates

that Sri Lanka's rule of law and its mechanisms to protect civilians are fraught, and that Sri Lanka is clearly incapable of conducting any just inquiry into war crimes or any crimes against humanity.

We, the *Australia Tamil Youth* believe that no longer can the international community allow Sri Lanka to continue its genocidal campaign against the Eelam Tamil people.

We, through our *Fast-in-Solidarity*, unite with our Tamil brethren in Tamil Nadu to call on India and other UN member states to support the need for an international independent investigation into the war crimes and crimes against humanity in Sri Lanka, and a UN-led Referendum on Tamil Eelam.

**Thamiliarin Thaaham Thameela Thayagam.**

The yearning of the Tamil people is that of a Eelam Tamil homeland.

**Endorsed by,**

Tamil Youth Organisation, Australia  
Voice of Tamils, Australia  
University of Sydney Tamil Society  
University of Macquarie Tamil Society  
University of Western Sydney Tamil Society  
University of Technology Sydney Tamil Society  
University of New South Wales Tamil Society

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