

H.E. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary General  
United Nations Organisation

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016

Your Excellency,

We are Eelam Tamil people who come from all parts of the Tamil homeland of the North-East of Sri Lanka and have been agitating outside all the venues that you are due to grace your presence with whilst visiting Jaffna today. We all comprise of organisations and individuals of affected Tamils.

Despite the lapse of 7 years since the end of the war, and despite over 19 months since a new regime being formed in Colombo with the support of the Tamil people's votes, the plight of the Eelam Tamils have changed for the better in any significant way.

- Our lands that were illegally occupied by the Sri Lankan military during the war are now being permanently acquired against our will.
- We continue to be dispossessed of our privately owned lands due to the systematic militarization policies pursued by consecutive governments.
- Our areas all over the North-East are undergoing state sponsored colonization of Sinhalese with the intention of creating demographic changes and make Tamil minorities in our own homeland.
- Buddhist temples and stupas are being built by state and military backing in areas where no Buddhist reside with the clear intention of destroying the North-East identity of being Tamil in character.
- After the North-East facing continuous war for over 30 years, the Tamil people are placed in an economically disadvantaged position. The Sinhala dominated governments are using this reality to completely undermine and economically destroy the self-sufficiency of the Tamil people.
- The Tamil people's culture and history is also being systematically undermined through the educational system controlled Sinhala dominated governments.

In other words, the Tamil people's existence in the North-East of Sri Lanka as a distinct Nation of People for over 2000 years is being systematically destroyed through a process of cultural Genocide. This is the reality today despite the new regime coming to power.

This coupled with the horrendous war crimes, crimes against humanity and Genocide committed against the Tamil people during the war and with even this present government assuring the Sinhala people that the Sri Lanka military and the previous regime shall be protected from any prosecutions of mass crimes clearly demonstrates the intentions of all Sinhala dominated governments in Sri Lanka.

It is in this backdrop that we the affected Tamil people insist that the following cardinal principles have to be explicitly recognised and form the basis for a political solution that safeguards the Tamil People's identity and heritage for once and for all time: -

1. The Tamil People are a distinct Nation comprising of the Northern and Eastern Provinces as the homeland.
2. The distinct sovereignty of the Tamil People.
3. The inalienable right to Self-Determination of the Tamil People.

We verily believe that a constitutional arrangement on the basis of the above can be arrived at through a federal arrangement that not only safeguards the unity of Sri Lanka, but also puts a complete stop to the Genocide that the Eelam Tamil Nation has been facing since the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1948. In this regard we will like to refer you to the political proposals formulated by the Tamil People's Council.

We also wish to reiterate our long standing view as repeatedly expressed at every election held in the North-East since May 2009, that as the victims of grave International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law violations, that it is ONLY A FULLY FLEDGED INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM THAT IS CONTROLLED BY THE UNITED NATIONS that will satisfy the Tamil people. WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESENT MECHANISMS AND FUTURE MECHANISMS PUT IN PLACE BY THE SINHALA DOMINATED GOVERNMENTS.

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