

## NEWS

# Let us pledge to continue ...

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were futile.

The world ignored the pleas and protests of world's Tamils, even as the mass killing of our people in Vanni was reaching a climax. Sri Lanka was directing heavy weapons targeting civilians. Trapped in their own homeland, without food and medicine our people were tormented.

Knowing the cruel treatment they will experience at the hands of the Sinhala forces, our people were hoping for and prepared to leave only in the presence of a safe third party. We fought to keep the Sri Lanka forces away from our people until then. When Sri Lankan war machine, superior in numbers and armaments, advanced invading our homeland, we fought relentlessly, exemplifying the Tamils' warrior tradition.

Encouraged by the support of the Diaspora Tamils and the sacrifice of those who gave their lives themselves, we fought with ferocity. However, Sri Lanka military, backed by international powers, was strengthened beyond our means to fight them.

Even the United Nations also limited itself to statements and no action. Instead of stopping the genocidal war unleashed on the Tamils in guise of a 'War on Terror', it sought to appease the Sri Lankan state. Some countries even despatched their political and military experts to advice and support the Sri Lankan government.

At this time, we strove in many ways to save our people from the unfolding humanitarian crisis. The Sri Lankan state and those acting as peace facilitator made unacceptable demands. Without understanding the fundamental nature of our liberation struggle and our peoples' aspirations, they acted with their self-interests in mind. This conduct deeply hurt and disappointed us. However we continued to reason and explain our position.

At the final stages, efforts we made through the internal community to save our people and the injured fighters were also sabotaged by the Sri Lankan state. Large numbers of trapped Tamils were massacred. Sri Lanka unleashed unprecedented atrocities on our people. Over twenty thousand people were killed in the space of just two days.

Those of our people who crossed over to Sri Lanka controlled territory, trusting the pledges made by the Sri Lankan government and the international community, were inflicted with immense suffering. Over three hundred thousand people were imprisoned in concentration camps without even drinking water. Six months on, this suffering is continuing. People who stood with us in our fight against oppression were taken to secret

camps. There has been no information made available on these people to date. Our fighters who are held by Sri Lankan forces are not being treated in accordance with international laws and norms on prisoners of war and are subject to immense suffering. The treatment of women fighters is terrible.

Relief agencies and human rights organisation are disappointingly silent on this matter. We urge the international community and rights organisations to take immediate action on this matter.

Sri Lanka's portrayal of its genocidal war as a 'humanitarian war' to liberate Tamils from the Tamil Tigers is ridiculous. The Sri Lankan President's claim of winning the war without loss of Tamil lives is laughable. This war has caused massive destruction of life, property, habitat and dignity for the Tamil people. The economic loss of Eelam Tamils is immeasurable. With our people held behind barbed wires, the resources of Tamils are being plundered.

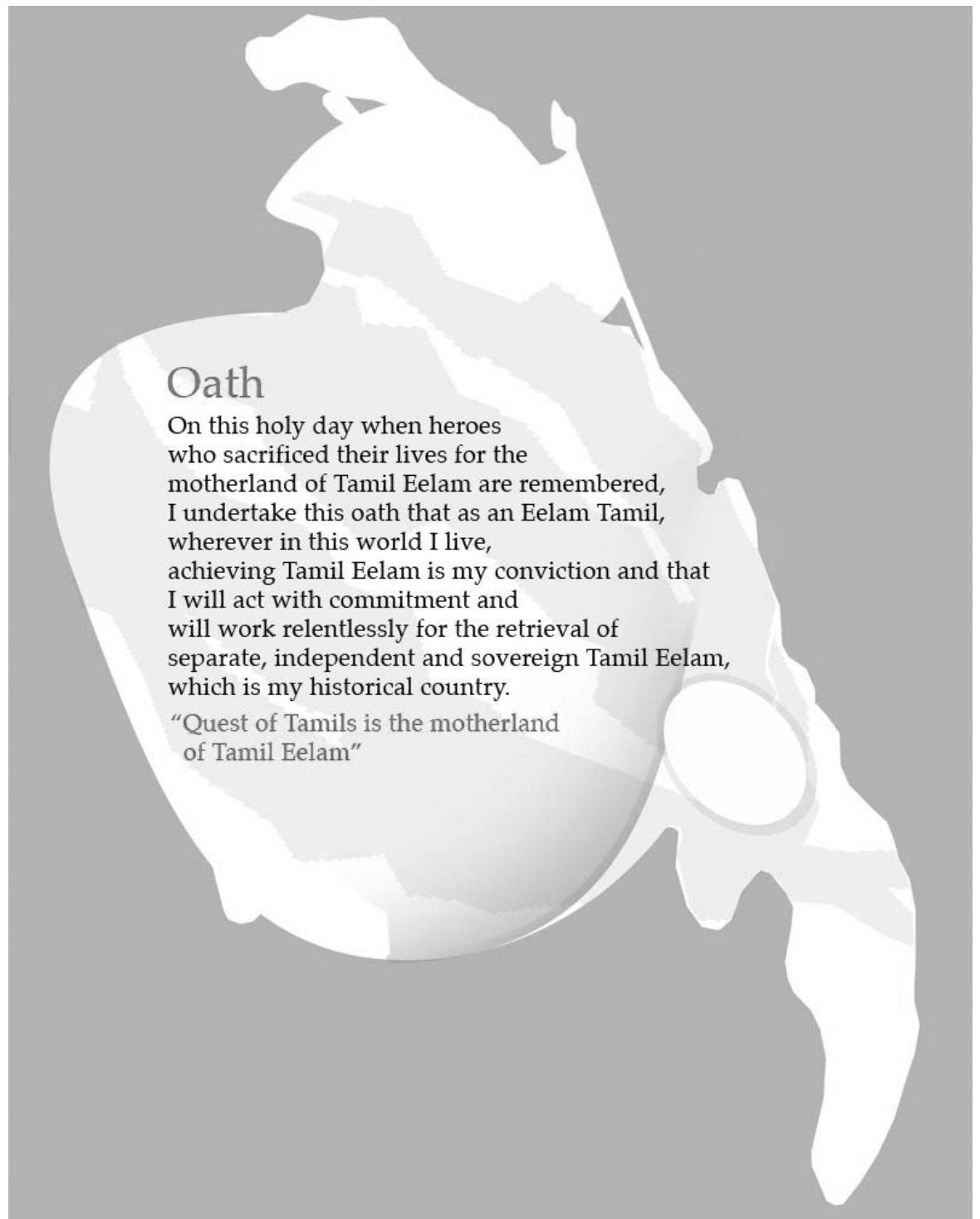
*Our dear people,*

Following the humanitarian tragedy that unfolded in Vanni, we have expanded our diplomatic activities in the international arena with the objective of bringing an end to the suffering of our people and ensuring their security. We are working on building a political structure across the globe. Sri Lanka is working hard to sabotage even these activities. It has been engaged in abducting and demanding the arrests of our organisers who are working according to international norms. Sinhala hegemony reached the stage where it targets even democratic expressions and activities of people.

From the day Sri Lanka is said to have gained independence, the successive Sinhala governments have vowed to, and worked towards, erasing the Tamil identity from the island and destroying the Tamil nation. Sri Lanka has continued to silence the voice of our people making it impossible for them to express their aspirations. Sinhala rulers have never been willing to offer a just and dignified solution to our people.

The violent and oppressive activities that commenced against the Tamils in 1956 reached a peak in with genocide in 2009. The actions of the Sinhala state and Sinhala forces, and especially the actions of Sinhala hegemony in the aftermath of the humanitarian tragedy inflicted on the Tamil people, has created a permanent rupture between the Sinhalese and the Tamils.

By unleashing a humanitarian tragedy on Tamils to break their will power, the Sri Lankan state is hoping to force their designs on the Tamil people, and bring the



**The English version of the oath of commitment towards Tamil Eelam taken across the Diaspora**

whole island under their dominance.

As part of this strategy it hoped to conduct municipality elections in Jaffna and Vavuniya to declare the fall of Tamil nationalism to the world. However, contrary to Sri Lanka's hope and desire our people demonstrated their support for Tamil nationalism and nationhood again at the polls.

As urged by those nations who are sympathetic to the Tamils' plight, it is necessary to build in those nations that respect democracy, the political structures to spearhead the liberation of our homeland. Selecting the representatives of these political structures through an electoral process in Diaspora nations is a step to international recognition. Through these political structures we should secure the support of the international community against our oppression and strengthen our liberation struggle internationally. We are confident that our people will never accept these political structures or the representatives elected to deviate from the goal of an independent Tamil Eelam.

Taking a long term perspective, it is our duty to take into consideration the prevailing inter-

national and international environments and continue our struggle in the most appropriate form.

At the same, it is also the duty of the global Tamils to rebuild the social infrastructure of our homeland destroyed by Sri Lanka over a long period of time and to rehabilitate the displaced Tamil people. It is the need of the hour for the global Tamils to be united in their activities to gain the support of the international community for our struggle against Sinhala oppression. We ask the global Tamil community to embrace all and make new friends to win our freedom.

At the same time, we ask all Tamil and Muslim political parties in our homeland to continue to work selflessly and cohesively towards winning our rights as they have done in the past.

We remember with appreciation the efforts of the Diaspora Tamils in raising awareness of our struggle in the international arena, especially the organised contributions and demonstrations of the Diaspora youth. We also thank the people of Tamil Nadu who rose against the genocide of our people.

Tamils in Eelam, in the Diaspora, in Tamil Nadu and

spread around the World! Let us continue our struggle until the dreams of our Heroes become reality. We can no longer live with Sinhalese; still hoping for justice from the Sinhalese is naïve. We are no longer prepared to trust and be betrayed by the Sinhala state.

The Tamils are a unique and strong nation. We are a nation with a rich culture and a long history. Let us face the challenges, overcome the obstacles, defeat opposition and continue our struggle until we reach our goal.

We call upon the global Tamils to come together to support all activities that strengthen our freedom struggle. The willing sacrifice of life by more than thirty thousand Heroes for the liberation of our motherland and the killing of more than a hundred thousand of our people in the struggle have kindled the fire of liberation in every Tamil mind.

On this day, let us pledge to continue our struggle, as per the guidance of our honourable National leader Velupillai Prabhakaran and as per the principles of those who gave up their precious lives fighting to the end for our rights, and work towards the formation of an independent, sovereign state of Tamil Eelam.