



வலிந்து காணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் குடும்பங்களின் அமைப்பு
கிழக்கு மாகாணம்

**Association for Relatives of the Enforced Disappearance
Eastern Province**

தொலைபேசி இலக்கம்:-0777610457. E-mail ared.eastern@gmail.com

திகதி }
Date } 19.03.2019

Honorable Michelle Bachelet Jeria
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais Wilson
52 rue des Pâquis
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland.

Dear Honorable High Commissioner,

We the Tamil mothers of the disappeared from the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka, is writing about the current UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Session and its importance in finding our loved ones and to get justice. As you may be aware, thousands of Tamils disappeared in Sri Lanka including children. We have been searching for our loved ones for several years despite intimidation and attack by the Sri Lankan Military Intelligence.

In the Eastern Province, Sri Lankan Security Forces and Military Intelligence along with Paramilitary groups led by Vinayagamorthy Muraletaran (Karuna) and Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan (Pillaiyan) abducted and disappeared our daughters, sons, husbands, fathers and even children over thirty years.

When mothers went in search of their loved ones, they were attacked and raped by the security forces and paramilitary groups. There are also individuals who work with the military meet the family members and promise to secure the disappeared for a payment. They often take them to isolated places where military and paramilitary groups rape these desperate mothers. This is the tragedy that mothers and families of the disappeared faced over the years.

The Government instead of punishing those responsible for the disappearance, promoted them and sent them as diplomats to different countries and to the UN. The paramilitary leader Vinayagamorthy Muraletaran (Karuna) was made a Cabinet Minister and Sivanesathurai Chandrakanthan (Pillaiyan) was made a senior Government party official.

We continue to live with the pain of not knowing what happened to our loved ones. We have difficulty eating, sleeping or concentrating and continuously fall sick. Every day we suffer imagining what would have happened to our loved ones.

- Are they alive?
- What happened to our babies?
- Are our daughters get raped?
- Are they tortured?

We are appealing to you to use your good offices to secure the release of our disappeared loved ones and take strong initiatives to bring security forces and paramilitary groups to face international justice.

Below please find our request:

- 1) Not to fall into Sri Lanka's trap like "Truth and Reconciliation" by giving any more additional time to Sri Lanka. Giving extension of time will embolden Sri Lankan Security Forces stationed in Tamil areas to continue their abuses and destroy vital war crimes evidences. Additionally, giving Additional time will permanently deny justice for Tamils.
- 2) To refer Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or to a specially created international criminal tribunal for Sri Lanka.
- 3) To appoint a UN Special Rapporteur for Sri Lanka, to monitor and report to the Council every six months about the plight of the war affected and other international human rights and humanitarian issues.

Below, please find the reason for our request:

Background:

Even though the war has ended about ten years ago, Tamils are still waiting for justice for the mass atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan Government. According to UN and other international organizations tens of thousands of Tamils were killed and numerous Tamil women were sexually assaulted and raped by the Sri Lankan Security Forces, in the final six months of the war that ended in May 2009.

The March 2011 Report of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka stated that war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed during the final six months of the war and 40 thousand Tamil civilians were killed.

Also, according to the November 2012 Report of the UN Secretary-General's Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka, the figure was raised to 70 thousand killed during the final phase of the war in 2009.

During the final six months of the war UN and international journalists were removed from the conflict zones and the war was conducted in complete secrecy. Civilian targets and internationally protected areas like hospital and food distribution centers were bombed and shelled.

Most were killed as a result of intense bombing and shelling of a government designated safe area called "No-fire Zone" where Tamils assembled for safety. Several also died of starvation and bled to death when Sri Lanka bombed and shelled hospitals and prevented enough food and medicine to reach those trapped in the "No Fire Zone".

UN ranked Sri Lanka as having the 2nd highest disappearance in the world. According to the UN there are over 20 thousand disappeared, which includes babies and children.

Women faced brunt of abuses:

A report by the International Truth and Justice Project (ITJP) published details of Sri Lankan Military run "Rape Camps", where Tamil women are being held as sex slaves.

The report states the following:

"A senior officer came into the room and was asked to take his pick, like we were meat in a meat market. He looked around and chose me. He took me to another room and raped me"

"Two of the women describe being detained in a group in one room, available for any soldier to come and chose from and take to an adjacent room or tent to be raped," says ITJP.

Tamil War Widows:

There are around 90 thousand Tamil war widows facing numerous challenges from the Security forces to them and especially to their daughters.

The same security forces that committed sexual abuses are still stationed in very large numbers in Tamil areas; living among the same women they committed sexual violence and killed and disappeared their husbands and children. Tamil women have to undergo fear and humiliation to live among the same soldiers who abused them and to see them walking free and enjoying full protection and support of successive Governments.

Tamil Mothers of the Disappeared are leading a campaign to find their disappeared babies, children, daughters, sons and husbands. They face intimidation and attacks by the Military Intelligence and the security forces.

Office of Missing Persons (OMP):

Sri Lankan Government half-heartedly established the Office of Missing Persons (OMP) to satisfy the international community, especially the UNHRC. We have difficulty trusting OMP, given that a former senior military officer is serving as an OMP Commissioner. Furthermore, according to the law that established OMP, any evidence obtained by the OMP cannot be used for prosecuting any suspect in a court of law. This leaves us solely to depend on international mechanisms to find our loved ones and to get justice.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

MRS.Amalanayaki Amalraj

President,

Association for Relatives of the Enforced Disappearance

Eastern Province

தலைவர்:- திருமதி அமலநாயகி அமலராஜ் -0777610457 (மட்டக்களப்பு மாவட்டம்) ,
செயலாளர்:-திருமதி தம்பிராசா செல்வராணி-0773901481 (அம்பாறை மாவட்டம்)
பொருளாளர்- திருமதி திருமதி செல்வராஜா சரோஜாதேவி (திருகோணமலை மாவட்டம்.)

email ared.eastern@gmail.com