



வலிந்துகாணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின் உறவுகளின் சங்கம்  
வடக்கு- கிழக்குமாகாணங்கள்

## Association for the Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances

பதிவு இல }  
Rgd No }

கண்டிவீதி, கிளிநொச்சி  
Kandy Road, Kilinochchi

திகதி }  
Date } 10-12-2020

### **On International Human Rights day we lose even the basic right to know the status of our disappeared loved ones.**

We, the relatives of the enforced disappearances in the North and East in Sri Lanka wish to submit this memorandum to your conscience with frustration and disappointments. Today is the International Human Rights Day. A day to question the consciences of the world community once again. We deem that this day to be a day for the international community to review the most tragic pages of history and address the already unresolved human rights issues boundlessly, when one race commit human rights violations against another race in depressed countries.

In that sense, we, the Association for the Relatives of the Enforced Disappearances in Sri Lanka, plead your esteem with deep sorrow and sympathy that the rulers in Sri Lanka now, as never before have planned to prohibit the cultural events of the Tamil people (e.g. Karthigai Deepa Thirunal) with the fundamental rights of individuals such as expression, commemoration of the dead. The government of Sri Lanka, which represents the Sinhala majority, is suppressing our fundamental rights with the arrest of Tamils with the strength of their three forces. It is threatening us as anti-government terrorists, who are seeking their relations and imposing obstacles for our non-violent struggles. When our struggles for peace are suppressed, what is the only way to express our feelings? This is what the UN. Defines as harassment, intimidation, and retaliation in accordance with the provisions of the Convention's Compulsory Laws. So what is the solution for us?

The UN-sponsored OMP Inquiring into the Disappearances has also come to an end in the same way as earlier Commissions, established by the Sri Lankan Government. Eleven years later, we still firmly believe in the United Nations Security Council and the International Commission of Human Rights as our last hope. That is why we continue to stand up for justice in the face of constant threats to life and unfair trials imposed on us by the Government of Sri Lanka. For the past 1390 days, we have been engaged in a series of struggles, especially in the midst of the great epidemic threat of the current Covid19. Thus 78 parents of our missing relatives have lost their lives in the ongoing series of struggles for justice. The 78 parents who fought for justice with us in past years are not with us today. The cause of their death was the tragedy of the disappearance of their children and the continuing pressure of Sri Lankan state terrorism. We would like to point out that along with their loss, their testimony has also been destroyed. Yet, we continue to knock on your door with weeping eyes for justice for our forcibly disappeared loved ones.



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Among the multinationals in the world, the Sri Lankan government stands alone as the only country where eight-month-old children to adults have gone missing as a family. In the North East, the traditional homeland of the Tamils, the Tamil ethnic groups who lived with their ethnic, cultural and cultural background have been targeted and disappeared. This should be seen as an element of genocide against Tamils. Our relatives were arrested before our very eyes, despite the siege of Eastern University by Sri Lankan government forces in the 1990s and the siege of villages in the Ampara and Batticaloa districts. Similarly, during the final war in 2009 we relied on the announcements of the Sri Lankan forces we surrendered our relations as families. Those so handed over or surrendered includes children and infants. The youngest disappeared child would be now 11 years old. But the Government of Sri Lanka has not shown our relations before our eyes since then. Instead, the current ruler of Sri Lanka, the perpetrator of the genocide and the one, who is responsible for the disappearance of our relations, tends to suppress our struggles with state violence and brand us as terrorist whenever we wander in search of justice.

We still have many eyewitnesses to the disappearance of our relatives after their arrest or surrender. But they have been continuously threatened by government forces and investigators day today, both directly and through cell phones. We continue our struggle in the hope that the UN will transform the international community in the face of various threats from the Government of Sri Lanka, such as various life-threatening investigations. They may be aware that the threats and repression of Sri Lankan intelligence extend not only to Sri Lanka but also to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The situation of those who have lost their heads of family in the disappearances is now worse than in the past and faces various social problems. Family-headed women are struggling in society beyond the unspeakable tragedies of raising and educating their children in insecure conditions amidst the various social attacks and poverty that befall them. They and their children have been marginalized by a series of threats from the Sri Lankan state intelligence service.

Despite the moral responsibility and obligation of the Government of Sri Lanka to reunite our children and relations with us, to this day it continues to haunt us by deliberately refusing to hand over our relations and children to us. Justice cannot be expected from the perpetrators, so we fervently pray to you with the ultimate hope that we will be able to redeem our relations and children through you in accordance with international standards. Our children and relatives have been forcibly disappeared by the Sri Lankan government forces on the contrary with the provisions relating to child protection and enforced disappearances, which are considered to be one of the most



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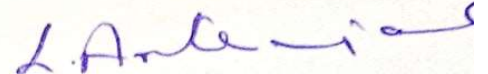
important provisions of the Council's enforcing laws. The UN High Commissioner and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have said that this is a blatant crime against humanity. We underscore that the UN and the international community, which has an inherent interest in promoting human rights issues, have a huge duty and responsibility to restore our relations.

The fact that this government, which was responsible for the enforced disappearances and led the extermination of Tamils, broke all rules from the March session last year and reaffirmed that justice will not be available to us from the Sri Lankan government and that the responsibility for obtaining the right response from the Sri Lankan government rests with the United Nations and the international community. We therefore look forward to taking action to refer Sri Lanka to the International Court of Justice or to a special tribunal for their swift action.

Thank you.

Association of Relatives of the Disappeared  
North Eastern Province

  
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