

18<sup>th</sup> June 2013

## UK university students condemn racist attacks

---

We, the undersigned Tamil youth and student organisations of the United Kingdom, heavily denounce the racially motivated attacks against Tamil protestors outside the renowned Oval stadium in London, attacks made in response to non-violent picketing for a justified boycott of Sri Lankan cricket.

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of June, men, women, and even children were met with a horrific flurry of rocks, bottles, and fists, in attacks which only echoed the racist violence met by Tamil people within Sri Lanka.

The peaceful Tamil protestors came in small number, not exceeding 30 people, yet were targeted by a violent mob of over 1000 Sri Lankan supporters attempting to undermine the activists' right to freedom of speech. We the British Tamil youth are shocked by such racially motivated attacks and the malicious and spiteful slogans such as "F\*\*\* Tamils" and other expletives hurled at the peaceful men and women, several of whom sustained injuries from the incident. At this time we commend the Tamil activists caught up in the violence, for remaining steadfast in their purpose as peaceful campaigners even in the face of such violence and abuse.

As British students and citizens of the United Kingdom, we find it abhorrent that there was space for such racist violence and hate speech in London, the capital of a country that is well known for clamping down on racial intolerance. Worse still no arrests were made in connection with the assaults on Tamil activists, despite attacks being carried out in the presence of the police.

The Sri Lankan structure has clearly, within its country and internationally, convinced its people that they have an indomitable right over the Tamil people. The violence that occurred outside the Oval is a drop in the ocean when compared to the decades of ongoing genocide faced by Tamils at the hands of security forces and state-endorsed mobs in Sri Lanka. The only way for justice to prevail is for the Tamil people's demands to be met, demands which decades later remain unanswered. These demands include the Tamil Nations right to self-determination and for our grievances to be accounted for.

Now, more than ever, when assault on Tamil activists happens not only in Sri Lanka, but around the world, we call for the International Cricket Council and English and Wales Cricket Board to boycott Sri Lankan cricket until there is an Independent International Investigation into war crimes and human rights abuses as well as the restoration of full political rights.

As we have done on numerous occasions, and choose to reiterate again, we call on the United Kingdom, the United Nations and the international community to hold the Sri Lankan state to account for its ongoing atrocities, through an independent international investigation.



**Birmingham University  
Tamil Society**



**BPP University College  
Tamil Society**



**Brunel University Tamil  
Society**



**Cambridge University  
Tamil Cultural Society**



**City University Tamil  
Society**



**Coventry University  
Tamil Society**



**International Tamil Society,  
Imperial College**



**International Tamil  
Society, University  
College London Union**



**King's College London  
Tamil Society**



**Leicester University  
Tamil Society**



**London Metropolitan  
University Tamil Society**



**London School of  
Economics Student  
Union Tamil Society**



**London South Bank  
University Tamil Society**



**Queen Mary's Tamil  
Society**



**School of Oriental and  
African Studies Tamil  
Society**



**St George's University of  
London Tamil Society**



**University of East  
London Tamil Society**



**University of  
Hertfordshire Tamil  
Society**



**University of Nottingham  
Tamil Society**



**University of Warwick  
Tamil Society**



**Westminster Tamil  
Society**