



## **Canadian Tamil Youth Alliance Strongly Condemns the Sri Lankan State's Destruction of Jaffna University's Tamil Memorial Statue Commemorating the Victims of the Tamil Genocide**

**January 9, 2021**

The Sri Lankan authorities bulldozed the Mullivaikkal Memorial Monument at the University of Jaffna on the night of January 8, 2021, despite pleas from the Tamil community and University of Jaffna students to stop. The Mullivaikkal Memorial Monument was unveiled in 2019, on the 10th year anniversary of the Mullivaikkal Genocide. This memorial statue commemorated the hundreds of thousands of innocent Tamil civilians that were indiscriminately massacred by the Sri Lankan state during the height of the Tamil Genocide in May 2009. **The Canadian Tamil Youth Alliance strongly condemns the continued actions of the Sri Lankan state in denying the right of the Tamil community to mourn the unjust loss of their loved ones.**

Dozens of Tamils are peacefully demonstrating outside the University of Jaffna, where they have been met with armed Sri Lankan troops blocking off and guarding the entrance to the campus. There has already been a heavy military presence in these areas, and it has only increased overnight. The military presence has been triggering for survivors as it is a constant reminder of the atrocities they faced and continue to face at the hands of the Sri Lankan state. Two Tamil students have been arrested thus far and the protestors are calling on the Vice-Chancellor of the university to meet with them.

This is not the first time. The Sri Lankan state has systematically destroyed Tamil memorials and monuments throughout the North-East since 2009, and have been deliberately replacing the Tamil memorials with the state's own victory monuments as a means to taunt the Tamil community.

The Canadian Tamil Youth Alliance does not condone, under any circumstances, the ongoing memoricide. The Tamil community in Tamil Eelam, especially the youth, who have used this memorial as a part of their healing process, face yet another violation of their right to remember their loved ones. We, as a community, are still experiencing the trauma arising out of the ongoing structural genocide perpetrated by the Sri Lankan authorities against the Tamil people. Acknowledgement and recognition of such atrocities is a necessary requirement in our journey towards justice.

As a youth organization, we have a responsibility to advocate for not only the youth in Canada but those in Tamil Eelam as well. We, as the youth in the Tamil diaspora, stand with the students of the University of Jaffna. As Tamil youth in Canada, we implore the Canadian federal government and provincial governments to:

1. Intervene and ensure the safety and protection of the students enrolled in Jaffna University, the members of the Tamil community engaged in peaceful demonstrations, and those students involved in the construction of this monument.
2. Proceed with an international investigation, and hold parties responsible for genocide against the Tamil community, accountable for their injustices and atrocities.
3. In Ontario, pass Bill 104 - Tamil Genocide Education Week Act, which will help provide a safe space for Tamil Ontarians that are suffering from the trauma and intergenerational trauma caused by the genocide

Respectfully,

Board of Directors  
Canadian Tamil Youth Alliance