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Six major Tamil American organizations jointly call for Independence Referendum for Eelam Tamils to resolve the political issue in Sri Lanka

Washington, DC, Jan 25, 2023 - Six major Tamil American organizations have jointly sent letters this week to the US Congressional leaders urging them to support the self-determination of Eelam Tamils and work towards conducting an Independence Referendum for the Tamils to permanently resolve the political issue in Sri Lanka. Pointing out that next month marks the 75th anniversary of independence to the island from the Great Britain which improperly decolonized the island, the letter is urging the United States to help implement the international laws that entitle the Eelam Tamils to the rights to self-determination.

The letter has been jointly written by Federation of Global Tamil Organization, Federation of Tamils Sangams of North America, Illankai Tamil Sangam, People for Equality and Relief in Lanka, Tamil Americans United PAC, and World Tamil Organization, and addressed to the 118th United States Congress.

“The joint letter by six major Tamil American organizations calling for Independence Referendum is a pivotal moment for the political rights of the Eelam Tamils which could ensure non-recurrence of Tamil Genocide” said Dr. Murugiah Muraleetharan - Vice-President and the Treasurer of the Tamil Americans United Political Action Committee. He added “only by serving justice to the Tamils and returning their sovereignty, can peace and stability be established in the region. Permanent solution is important, and Independence Referendum is the democratic, peaceful, and correct approach. We are hopeful that the United States will take leadership to do the right thing.”

The letter contained references to Sri Lanka’s deceptive maneuvers at the UNHRC and its close alliance with China and Russia. The letter called the United States Congress for the following four actions:

1. Urge the US administration to support Eelam Tamils’ rights to self-determination.
2. Take initiatives towards conducting an Independence Referendum for Eelam Tamils to determine their political status democratically and peacefully.
3. Urge the US administration to leverage the US’s position on the UN Security Council to pursue a referral of Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court.
4. Formally recognize the genocide carried out against the Tamil people by the Sri Lankan state.

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