



# Tamil Youth Organization (TYO) - Canada

June 5, 2026

## For Immediate Release

**TORONTO, ON** — The Tamil Youth Organization (TYO) - Canada and 12 Tamil Students' Associations strongly condemn the recent arbitrary arrest and detention of 24-year-old Eelam Tamil musical artist Sangeethsan Ganeskumar, known professionally as HipHop Sangee, by the Sri Lankan authorities. Arrested under the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), Mr. Ganeskumar faces severe charges simply for sharing videos of his musical performances on social media. Canadian Tamil youth and students view this arrest as a direct, aggressive assault on the fundamental rights to free speech and freedom of expression for Eelam Tamil artists, and a calculated attempt by the Sri Lankan state to systematically erase Tamil cultural identity and historical memory.

Mr. Ganeskumar, a resident of Kilinochchi, was targeted by Sri Lankan authorities after uploading a video to TikTok that featured his original rap music overlaid on footage from a temple festival performance. Despite the artistic and peaceful nature of his work, the occupying Sri Lankan security forces alleged the video "supported or glorified" the liberation struggle, using Section 03(g) of the PTA to remand him in custody.

This weaponization of anti-terror laws against artists is not an isolated incident; it is a continuation of the ongoing structural genocide perpetrated by the Sri Lankan state against the Tamil nation. Since the height of the Tamil genocide in May 2009, when tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were massacred at Mullivaikkal, the Sri Lankan state's heavily militarized security and intelligence apparatus has subjected the Tamil homeland in the North-East to intense surveillance, harassment, and intimidation. Just last week, occupying police forces interrupted a musical event in Urumpirai, Jaffna, and summoned the son of the late Tamil musician S.G. Santhan for questioning over Tamil homeland-themed songs.

By criminalizing music, poetry, and digital art, the Sri Lankan state seeks to censor the lived experiences of Tamils impacted by the genocide, criminalize their collective grief, and deny them the right to articulate their identity. As documented extensively by international human rights watchdogs, the Sri Lankan state operates with total impunity, regularly weaponizing arbitrary detentions, land grabs, and institutionalized torture to crush political aspirations and free speech of Tamils and enforces a monocultural, majoritarian state framework.

The arrest of a young artist for simply speaking his truth through a song is a terrifying reflection of the total absence of democracy and freedom for Tamils on the island. The Sri Lankan military apparatus is attempting to police Tamil memories and silence our youth. Music and storytelling have always been central to our survival and our resistance. We will not sit idly by while the state attempts to erase our identity.



# Tamil Youth Organization (TYO) - Canada

Canadian Tamil youth and students urgently calls upon the International Community, including the Government of Canada, international human rights organizations, and global artistic networks, to:

1. **Denounce the arrest of Sangeethsan Ganeskumar (HipHop Sangee)** and demand his immediate and unconditional release.
2. **Pressure the Sri Lankan government to permanently repeal the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)**, which has routinely been used as a tool to arbitrarily detain Tamils, activists, and journalists.
3. **Recognize the ongoing structural genocide and human rights abuses in Tamileelam**, and hold Sri Lankan state and military officials accountable under international law.
4. **Recognize the legitimate political aspirations** and the **right to self-determination** of the Tamil people

Canadian Tamil youth and students stand in unwavering solidarity with HipHop Sangee, artists in Tamileelam, and all Tamil youth fighting to preserve their history, voice, and right to self-determination against ongoing Sri Lankan state oppression.

In Solidarity,

Brock University Tamil Students' Association  
McMaster Tamileelam Students' Association  
Tamil Youth Organization (TYO) – Canada  
Toronto Metropolitan University Tamil Students' Association  
University of Guelph Tamil Students' Association  
University of Ottawa Tamil Students' Union  
University of Toronto Mississauga Campus Tamil Students' Association  
University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Tamil Students' Union  
University of Toronto St. George Campus Tamil Students' Association  
University of Waterloo Tamil Networking Association  
Western University's Tamil Students' Association  
Wilfrid Laurier Tamil Students' Association  
York University Tamileelam Students' Association