

Canadian Tamil Students strongly condemn the Sri Lankan state's Destruction of the Tamil Genocide Memorial Monument at the University of Jaffna

January 11th, 2021

Note: We acknowledge that since this statement was written, the University of Jaffna has committed to rebuilding the Mullivaikkal Memorial Monument. However, the Sri Lankan state must still be held accountable for its ongoing efforts to silence our voices.

On January 8th, 2021, the Mullivaikkal Memorial Monument at the University of Jaffna, dedicated to the countless innocent lives lost during the Mullivaikal Genocide was destroyed by the Sri Lankan state. This memorial was built in 2019, to mark the 10th anniversary of the massacre. The destruction of the Mullivaikkal monument is another step in the Sri Lankan state's attempt to erase our cultural identity and history. From the burning of the Jaffna Public Library in 1981, to the destruction of the Mullivaikal Memorial in 2021, the Sri Lankan state continues to actively engage in cultural genocide against the Tamil people. As Eelam Tamils, it is important that in moments like these, we show that although our memorials can be demolished, our burning desire for justice can never be extinguished.

Now more than ever, it is crucial to have our voices heard and fight for those who are being silenced. At this moment, we urge everyone to spread the word about the atrocities committed by the Sri Lankan state by calling on your local MP and MPP. The Canadian Tamil Students urge the Canadian governments to:

- Condemn the original actions of the Sri Lankan state and stand in solidarity with the Jaffna students who were wrongfully detained, peaceful protesters who went on a hunger strike, as well as the individuals involved with the construction of the original monument
- Call for an independent investigation to hold the Sri Lankan state and other involved parties accountable for the atrocities committed against the Tamil people.
- Support the immediate passage of Bill 104 - Tamil Genocide Education Week Act in the Ontario Legislature, to provide Tamil Students a safe space to grieve and cope with intergenerational trauma

We also urge Tamil Youth around the world to continue to share and educate others on our story, history and identity. Together, as united students in the Tamil Diaspora, we will continue to fight for justice and the right to honour the lives of our loved ones who were unjustly taken from us.

In Solidarity,
Canadian Tamil Students

This document has been authorized and signed by representatives of:

