

90,000 Tamil War Widows Suffer in Sri Lanka: Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam

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On this international widow's day (June 23); in Sri Lanka over 90,000 Tamil war widows continue to suffer even after the end of the war five years ago in 2009, said Mrs. Balambihai Murugadas, Minister of Homeland Development Affairs, Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE).

According to a May 2012 report by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Human Rights and Democracy; there are up to 90,000 Tamil war widows in the North & East of Sri Lanka. Several reports including by Human Rights watch and Amnesty International reported of several cases of Sri Lankan Security Forces carrying out rape and sexual violence of Tamil women with impunity. Recently there have been

discoveries of mass graves throughout the Tamil homeland, including burnt bodies of many women.

Despite promises to the international community the Sri Lankan government continues to run a heavily militarized administration in the Tamil homeland with the use of its Security Forces. Women face bulk of the abuses committed by the Security forces, including rape continued Mrs. Balambihai Murugadas.

There are thousands of Tamil women who saw their husbands being taken away for questioning by the army, after the last phase of the war in May 2009 and have never seen them again. They have exhausted every internal process over the last 5 years, including petitioning the Sri Lankan government and now their only hope is that the international community does everything in its power to locate their loved ones.

The Tamil women have been forcefully sterilized by the Sri Lankan Government to control the Tamil population.

Tamil women are also being forced into conscription by the army.

International community should create International Protection Mechanisms to safeguard Tamil women in the island and to have specific programs to benefit 90,000 Tamil war widows, continued Mrs. Balambihai Murugadas.

Mrs Balambihai Murugadas
Minister for Homeland Affairs
Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE)



Web: www.tgte-homeland.org,

BACKGROUND:

Tamils have faced repeated mass killings since 1958 and the killings in 2009 prompted UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to appoint a Panel of Experts to report on the scale of killings.

According to the report by this UN Panel, tens of thousands of Tamil civilians were killed (UN Internal Review Report on Sri Lanka: over 70,000 Tamils were killed in five months in 2009).

These people were killed due to deliberate and intense shelling and bombing of areas designated by the government as "no-fire zones", where Tamil civilians had assembled for safety. The Sri Lankan Government also restricted food and medicine for Tamils, resulting in large numbers of people dying from starvation and many of the injured bleeding to death.

According to the UN Panel, the killings and other abuses that took place amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Independent experts believe that there are elements of these abuses that constitute an act of genocide.

According to a May 2012 report by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Human Rights and Democracy; there are up to 90,000 Tamil war widows in the North & East of Sri Lanka. A book "Unfinished War: Torture and Sexual Violence in Sri Lanka: 2009 - 2014 highlight the continuing sexual abuses by the Sri Lankan Security forces.

UN Human Rights Council in March 2014 established an international war crimes investigation for these killings.

Members of the Sri Lankan security forces are almost exclusively from the Sinhalese community and the victims are all from the Tamil community.

Tamils overwhelmingly voted in an election in 1977 to establish an independent and sovereign country Tamil Eelam. This election was conducted by the Sri Lankan Government.

ABOUT TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL EELAM (TGTE):

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is a democratically elected Government of Tamils (from the island of Sri Lanka) living in several countries.

It held internationally supervised elections among Tamils around the world to elect over 132 Members of Parliament and is leading a campaign to realize Tamils' political aspirations through peaceful, diplomatic and democratic means.

TGTE has a bicameral legislature and a Cabinet and held one of its Parliamentary sittings in the British Parliament.

The Constitution of the TGTE mandates that it should realize its political objective only through peaceful means.

The Prime Minister of TGTE is Mr. Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran, a New York based lawyer.

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam

TGTE

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