

Ban-Ki-Moon Urged to Censure Sri Lanka for Its Refusal to Grant Visas to UN Investigators: TGTE

"President of the UN General Assembly urged to withdraw his invitation to Sri Lankan President to address the UN General Assembly"

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- 1) UN Secretary General urged to publicly censure the Sri Lankan government for denying direct access for the victims of international crimes in the island of Sri Lanka to UN investigators.
- 2) President of the UN General Assembly urged to withdraw his invitation to Sri Lankan President to address the UN General Assembly.
- 3) Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is organizing a protest rally outside the UN in New York on September 25th to condemn Sri Lankan President's actions.

The Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) urged UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon to strongly object to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's refusal to grant visas for UN's Office of the High- Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Investigation on Sri Lanka's (OISL) on international criminal law, human rights, and humanitarian laws violations.

It is time for the UN Secretary General to publicly censure the Sri Lankan government for denying direct access for the victims of international crimes in the island of Sri Lanka to OISL investigators. As the UN Internal Review Panel Report demonstrates, quiet diplomacy or appeasement does not work with the Sri Lankan government, which is not susceptible to reason. Thus it is time for robust public diplomacy. We urge the Secretary General to use his office as a moral pulpit to galvanize international opinion against the obstinacy of the Sri Lankan government.

While the Sri Lankan President is denying UN access, he is still scheduled to speak at the UN General Assembly on September 25th. Given the blatant disregard to the UN Human Rights Council, it is an affront to permit him to address the UN General Assembly, which in fact created the Human Rights Council.

Thus we urge the President of the UN General Assembly to withdraw his invitation to address the UN General Assembly.

TGTE also urges UN Member states to take note of this transgression and raise it in the appropriate forums to safeguard the credibility and effectiveness of the United Nations.

The Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) is organizing a protest rally outside the UN in New York on September 25th to condemn Sri Lankan President's actions.

We also note news of the rapes of very young girls by the Sri Lankan Navy personnel. Even handedness requires UN condemnation of such violation of human rights. The TGTE keenly monitors such events and is aware of the names of the alleged perpetrators and the chain of command

involved. We request the Secretary General to condemn violations of human rights that takes place in Sri Lanka, not only against the Tamils but the Muslims and Christian minorities as well.

The Sri Lankan government forces have been accused of mass killing of Tamils in the final stages of the war, which ended in May 2009. Such killings continue. The government troops are in occupation of the NorthEast of Sri Lanka, inducing fear in the inhabitants. This is a violation of the norms of international law. The actions of the Government of Sri Lanka amount to a continuous genocide of the Tamil people. The United Nations has a duty under its Charter to bring this genocide to an end.

BACKGROUND:

Tamils have faced repeated mass killings since 1958 and the mass 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 and women were sexually abused and raped by the Sri Lankan Security Forces (According to UN Internal Review Report over 70,000 Tamils were killed in five months in 2009).

These Tamils 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.

UN Human Rights Council in March 2014 established an international war crimes investigation to investigate these killings and the investigations have begun.

A Buddhist Monk shot and killed a Sri Lankan Prime Minister in 1958 for having talks with Tamil political leaders to find a solution to the conflict.

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 a Parliamentary election in 1977 to establish an independent and sovereign country called Tamil Eelam. This Parliamentary 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. TGTE was formed after the mass killing of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government in 2009.

TGTE held internationally supervised elections among Tamils around the world to elect 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.

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