

# Scottish Independence Referendum inspires Eelam Tamils! Call for Referendum in Sri Lanka based on legal & moral grounds

*Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) congratulates the people of Scotland, Prime Minister of United Kingdom and First Minister of Scotland.*

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Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka consider the 1977 elections as a referendum for the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam and voted for it overwhelmingly.

*Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran*

1) A special commendation is due to the British Prime Minister, who consented to the conduct of a referendum and for his engagement politically and intellectually in support of his position.

2) We also take note of the fact that not only did the British Prime Minister consent to the referendum, but also that there was no opposition to the referendum from any quarter of the international community.

Referendums have a rich history in international relations.

3) It is notable that 34 states have gained independence since 1990, and their emergence has not resulted in the disruption

of the stability of the international order as forecast at the time of their birth. On the contrary, it has contributed to peace and security in the respective regions.

4) British left Ceylon in 1948 without giving back to the Tamils control of their territory or sufficient constitutional safeguards to their security.

5) On this momentous occasion of a referendum being held in Scotland to determine the future of the United Kingdom, we call upon all civilized nations and members of the UN to listen to the cries of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, being subject to brutality and genocide, and pave the way for a referendum about their political future in the island.

The Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) congratulates the people of Scotland, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Hon David Cameron, and the First Minister of Scotland, Hon Alex Salmond, on the historic referendum being held today.

A special commendation is due to the British Prime Minister, who consented to the conduct of a referendum and for his engagement politically and intellectually in support of his position. While we do not take any position with respect to the outcome of the referendum, we recognize that the primary motivation for a call for independence by the Scottish was their discontentment with the economic policies of the British government as well as a real or perceived slight by the English.

As Tamils from the island of Sri Lanka, we cannot help but note that the Scottish call for the referendum was not due to the Scottish People being subjected to genocide or to gross and systematic violations of their human rights on account of their nationality. We note that the Scottish People lived in their own kingdom prior to the Acts of Union 1707 which united them with England. The parallel for this with the Tamil People of Ceylon (Sri Lanka) is striking. Tamils also lived under a

kingdom of their own until the colonial powers united the three kingdoms in the island of Ceylon they had conquered for administrative convenience.

We also take note of the fact that not only did the British Prime Minister consent to the referendum, but also that there was no opposition to the referendum from any quarter of the international community.

Referendums have a rich history in international relations. Starting from the French Revolution through the dissolution of Norway and Sweden, and most recently in Kosovo and South Sudan, referendums gave a means to the people to decide their political future.

Like the Scots, the Tamils were a distinct people who were forced together with the Sinhalese by the British colonials for administrative convenience, and the British left Ceylon in 1948 without giving back to the Tamils control of their territory or sufficient constitutional safeguards to their security. Since then a brutal genocide has been inflicted upon them unabatedly. An end to that continuing genocide would be through a referendum that establishes the self-determination of the Tamils, the issue being whether they desire to live in a separate state or within the present united Sri Lanka.

The Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka, due to ongoing systematic and pervasive human rights violations, did consider the 1977 elections as a referendum for the establishment of an independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam and voted for it overwhelmingly.

Following the Mullivaikaal Genocide in 2009, the Tamil Diaspora has been calling for a fresh referendum on the future of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka. The right of the Tamils within Sri Lanka to continue to demand secession through democratic means has been criminalized by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of the country.

It is left to the Tamil Diaspora and the international community to argue for the right of the Tamils to determine through a referendum whether or not they wish to end their continuing repression by creating a separate state for them.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister, Hon Ms Jeyalalitha, the Tamil Nadu State Assembly in India has passed a resolution calling for a referendum to allow the Tamils both inside and outside the island of Sri Lanka to decide their political future.

In spite of all that has happened, we continue to hear opposition to the Tamils' call for referendum from some powerful quarters of the international community, an opposition that is based neither on law nor on morality. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees the right to vote, should be applied universally. Moreover, the international community's selective application of international law contributes to the lack of international governance as presently unfolding in front of our eyes in Sri Lanka.

It is notable that 34 states have gained independence since 1990, and their emergence has not resulted in the disruption of the stability of the international order as forecast at the time of their birth. On the contrary, it has contributed to peace and security in the respective regions.

Therefore, on this momentous occasion of a referendum being held in Scotland to determine the future of the United Kingdom, we call upon all civilized nations and members of the UN to listen to the cries of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, being subject to brutality and genocide, and pave the way for a referendum about their political future in the island.

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