

Tamils to Rally Against Sri Lankan President During His Visit to UN in New York: TGTE

While the Sri Lankan President is denying UN access to his country, he is scheduled to speak at the UN General Assembly on September 24th.

NEW YORK, USA, September 20, 2014
/EINPresswire.com/ --

The rally will be held on September 24th (Wednesday) from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. (outside UN in New York). Thousands from US and Canada are expected to join this rally.

1) UN should condemn Sri Lanka's denial of visa to UN War Crimes investigators.

2) UN should ensure the protection of witnesses and urge the Sri Lankan President not to harm Tamils who testify before the UN body.

3) UN should warn the Sri Lankan President of the consequences for intimidation and persecution of potential witnesses to the UN investigation. A Sri Lankan Cabinet Minister has threatened legal action against those testifying before the UN inquiry.

4) UN urged not to allow Sri Lankan President to use his appearance at the UN to sanitize his international crimes. His is not just a war criminal, but a perpetrator of genocide.

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) announced today that a rally will be held outside the UN headquarters in New York to protest Sri Lankan President Rajapakse's visit to the UN General Assembly and to highlight Sri Lanka's refusal to allow UN war crimes investigators access to that country as well as threats against witnesses to that UN probe.

While the Sri Lankan President is denying UN access to his country, he is scheduled to speak at the UN General Assembly on September 24th.

TGTE also urged UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon and President of the General Assembly to strongly condemn Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's refusal to allow UN's war crimes investigation on Sri Lanka and to threats against witnesses to this UN probe.

Additionally, 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.



Rajapakse & Gaddafi

TGTE is circulating the following memo:

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL CHALLENGED

Witnesses to UN Investigation Threatened by Sri Lankan Government

In what amounts to be a direct challenge to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC), the Sri Lankan Government has taken a hostile attitude toward a UNHRC investigation. The UNHRC in its March 2014 Session created an investigative body on Sri Lanka to inquire into serious crimes committed in Sri Lanka during the war.

The Sri Lankan Government has threatened prospective witnesses to this UN investigation of dire consequences, including legal action, for giving evidence and the President of Sri Lanka has categorically denied access to the country to this investigative body. <https://news.vice.com/article/sri-lankas-president-doesnt-want-the-uninvestigating-war-crimes-in-his-country>

The Sri Lankan Cabinet spokesman Mr. Keheliya Rambukwella, threatened legal action against those testifying before the UN inquiry. <http://www.ceylontoday.lk/58-70207-news-detailun-inquiry-and-sri-lankas-response.htm> |

This explicit threat of prosecution coupled with the covert activities of “white van” abductions and “disappearances” place all potential witnesses in a precarious position.

Potential witness arrested for seeking her disappeared son:
<http://www.channel4.com/news/sri-lanka-jayakumari-arrest-missing-civil-war-ltte>

Non-cooperation by the Sri Lankan government to this UN investigation is one thing; but, persecution of potential witnesses is another.

Many Tamils who are either victims or witnesses are eager to testify to seek justice for the killing of their family members or for the mass killing of Tamils. They are intimidated by threats from the Sri Lankan Government. There are also concerns that the Sri Lankan security forces may target the relatives of witnesses who testify overseas.

UNHRC should take steps to: Ensure the protection of witnesses and urge the Sri Lankan President not to harm Tamils who testify before this UN body.

UNHRC should also warn: the Sri Lankan Government of the consequences for its tactic of intimidation and persecution of potential witnesses.

UNHRC should consider: Requesting the UN Security Council to ensure witness protection for the UN war crimes investigation on Sri Lanka.

“I am alarmed at threats currently being leveled against the human rights community in Sri Lanka, as well as prospective victims and witnesses” noted new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein in his statement on September 8, 2014 at UNHRC.

"We are alarmed to learn of intimidation, threats and reprisals against all those perceived as likely to engage with and provide information to the investigation mandated by the UN Human Rights Council..." said a joint letter by six international organizations led by Amnesty International on August 27, 2014.

Source: Arab News - <http://www.arabnews.com/world/news/621586>

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 the 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 in the last few months of the war. According to the UN Internal Review Report completed shortly thereafter, over 70,000 Tamils were killed in the first five months of 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. Government also restricted food and medicine for Tamils, resulting in large numbers of people dying from starvation and many of the injured dying of their wounds.

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 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.

The UN Human Rights Council in March 2014 established an international war crimes investigation (OISL) to investigate these killings and the investigations have begun. Members of the Sri Lankan security forces are almost exclusively from the Sinhalese community and the victims are all from the Tamil community.

According to several sources, Tamil areas have the highest concentration of security forces in the world (Ratio: One soldier for every five Civilians).

www.ustpac.org/militarization and <http://www.srilankacampaign.org/fiveinfographics.htm>

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.

Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam

TGTE

+33699332705 or +447896588369

email us here

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases.

© 1995-2017 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.