

TGTE Response to Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister

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Highlights:

- International crimes were committed against Tamils by the Sri Lankan state itself.
- Tamil votes were anti-Rajapaksa votes, not pro-Sirisena due to past experience.
- Show of sincerity important: repeal or suspend PTA as done in 2002
- Show of transparency: invite OISL
- What will cause Sinhalese to be amenable to change after the election?
- No fundamental change envisaged in Sinhala – Tamil relations.
- Neither political environment nor political will for accountability.

Today (03/06/2015) the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam issued a Statement in response to the statement made by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera, M.P. at the 28th Session of Human Rights Council.

Citing the Report of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka, the Statement emphasized that international crimes, namely war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, have been committed against the Tamil People by the Sri Lankan State itself, acting like a cultural warhead of the Sinhala-Buddhist majority community. The Statement also stated that it is the state of Sri Lanka that is a party to the Four Geneva of 1949 and Genocide Convention, thus transition of governments is legally irrelevant.

The Statement, quoting the memorandum of the Jaffna University Teachers Association, noted the mischaracterization of Eelam Tamil votes during the last presidential elections as votes for the current president.



Highlighting that the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister's speech was full of "promises and good intentions", the Statement stated that the Sri Lankan political history reveals that the Sri Lankan government is very generous when it comes to promises. It points out the unfulfilled promise made by the Sri Lankan government to the UN to bring the perpetrators to justice following the 1983 racial pogrom.

Noting the wishful thinking of some quarters that if the current regime is seen as promising too much to Tamils now, they could lose the forth-coming parliamentary elections, the Response pointed out the requirement of a referendum for anything more than the power mentioned in the 13th Amendment and posed the question of what will cause the Sinhalese people to be more amenable to meaningful power sharing after the election? Exploring an alternative basis for legitimacy, the Statement questioned how a mandate can be obtained without discussing the measures prior to the election.

The Statement concludes that there is no fundamental change in relations between the Sinhalese and Tamils envisaged, either before the elections or after.

Pointing to the lack of a political environment and political will demonstrated by the statement of the Deputy Minister of Justice of Sri Lanka that the former Defense Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa is safe as long as he is in Sri Lanka, the Statement called for a referral of Sri Lanka to the International Crime Court or the establishment of a Sri Lanka War Crimes Tribunal.

The Thirst Of Tamils Is Tamil Eelam.

FOR FULL RESPONSE: <http://www.calameo.com/read/000341502059c828e4110>

ABOUT TRANSNATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL EELAM (TGTE):

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

TGTE was formed after the mass killing of Tamils by the Sri Lankan Government in 2009. According to UN internal review report on Sri Lanka, over 70,000 Tamils were killed in five months in early 2009 and Tamil women were sexually assaulted and raped by Sri Lankan Security forces. There are over 90,000 Tamil war widows and hundreds of Tamil political prisoners.

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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