

# Three Current and Former Presidents of Sri Lanka have Pledged No Accountability

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*Calling the High Commissioner to voice his disapproval*

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On March 24th, 2015, the Prime Minister of Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) sent a letter to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Honorable Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al-Husseini, bringing to his attention and raising concerns about the statements of the three Sri Lankan Presidents denouncing the international investigation. The letter strongly urged the Commissioner to voice his disapproval at such statements.

In the letter, it is stated inter alia

Former President, Mr. Mahinda Rajapakse(2005-2015) stated in an interview for Time magazine, that he opposed the international investigation, as you are well aware. He stated:

“It is like Cassius Clay fighting a school boy...they [the international community] can't knock us down.”

On 12 March 2015, the new President of Sri Lanka, Mathripala Sirisena, said to the BBC, “We are ready to get advice and their opinions for the inquiry, but I don't think we need any outsiders because we have all the sources for this.”

This sentiment was echoed most recently this week by another former president, Chandrika Kumaratunga (1994-2005), who said that calls for an international investigation were “insulting” in its implication that the country was unable to do this independently.

The letter, cited the 2015 Human Rights Watch World Report, which stated inter alia

(T)he government continued its longtime practice of refusing to investigate or prosecute credible allegations of torture, including sexual violence, against suspected LTTE members or supporters in custody.”

The letter further stated that there is no tangible evidence to suggest that the government of Sri Lanka will do anything other than remain intransigent in its grant of impunity to perpetrators and its efforts to circumvent the will of international community.

In conclusion, the letter commended the High Commissioner's Office diligence in its work.

The TGTE has also launched a Million Signature Campaign in fifteen languages, calling the UN to refer Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The TGTE calls upon the international civil society to participate in the Campaign ([www.tgte-icc.org](http://www.tgte-icc.org)).

The Campaign will end on the 1st of September, 2015.

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