

Sri Lanka: Tamils begin Week of Mourning, Commemorate the 6th Anniversary of Genocide: TGTE

Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark will deliver Mullivaaikal Memorial Lecture in New York on May 18th.

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Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka and worldwide begin a week of mourning to commemorate the 6th anniversary of mass killings in the final months of the war in 2009, which saw tens of thousands of Tamils killed and Tamil women raped by the Sri Lankan Security forces. According to UN's Internal Review Report on Sri Lanka, around 70,000 Tamils were killed in the first six months in 2009.

The Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) commenced the week of mourning by convening a special session of the Parliament to allow Members to pay respects to those Tamils killed in the final months of the war.

During this special session, Prime Minister Mr. Rudrakumaran stated "This is a week when we carry the full dimension of the distress, sorrow and the sense of loss from Mullivaaikal and the remembrance of the painful last six years". He went on to add "This is also a week when we find a way to channel the deep pain and sorrow that remain frozen in our hearts, and through the expression of such grief renew and recommit ourselves to embark on the struggle for justice with new courage and vigor. During this week, we remember our kith and kin killed in such unjustifiable ways, and the Maaveerar who made the greatest sacrifice, and in their memory we pledge that we shall give meaning to their noble vision."

Prime Minister Rudrakumaran referred to the Million Signature Campaign as a meaningful way to relate to the significance of the week, and as an expression of our determination to seek justice, which was so much within our reach to achieve and a claim the world had to listen. Commenting on the regime change in Sri Lanka, he said "We do not share the same optimism seen in so many quarters, including many among us. We do not want to be seen as not being realists or pragmatists. We are both, but we have a long history on our side to refer back to, and to recognize that this optimism could not be sustained. We know that it is the Sinhala State and not its governments or leaders that carry the chauvinist mindset".

He added "We are, however, realistic enough to take grasp every opening and opportunity that we find to place our sacred call and the just claim of a Nation in search of a State. It is therefore pleasing to note that our people at home have opened this week capturing the small spaces that have become open to express their feelings about Mullivaaikal". Prime Minister Rudrakumaran called upon all members of the Diaspora to do what exactly the people in the homeland wanted them to do in the name of the departed, in order to seek justice, peace and freedom.

OTHER ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE TGTE FOR THE WEEK AHEAD ARE:

1. Former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark will deliver Mullivaaikal Memorial Lecture in New York on May 18th.
2. Actively collect signatures to the petition that calls for the referral of Sri Lanka to the International Criminal Court at www.tgte-icc.org
3. Intensify the distribution of Tamil Eelam National Card.
4. Organize and participate in numerous rallies around the world.

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 thousands of Tamil political prisoners.

TGTE held internationally supervised elections among Tamils around the world to elect 132 Members of Parliament. It has a bicameral legislature and a Cabinet. It held one of its Parliamentary sittings in the British Parliament.

TGTE is leading a campaign to realize Tamils' political aspirations through peaceful, democratic and diplomatic means. 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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