

A Potential Sri Lankan War Crime Suspect Speaking at UN General Assembly? Tamils For Obama

NEW YORK, USA, September 29, 2015 /EINPresswire.com/ --

Tamils For Obama wishes to bring to the attention to the world body about a potential Sri Lankan war crimes suspect, who has publicly admitted to his involvement in mass killings of Tamils, is scheduled to speak at the United National General Assembly on September 30th.

Sri Lankan President Sirisena admitted to the fact that he was the acting defense minister during the final weeks of the war, when large number of Tamils were killed, including those surrendered.

It was during his time that Sri Lanka rejected appeals by world leaders, including from President Obama, to stop shelling and bombing an area called "No Fire Zone", which was created by the Sri Lankan Government, where thousands of Tamil civilians assembled for safety.

This is what Sri Lankan President Sirisena said in the interview:

- "I was the Minister in Charge of Defence during the last two weeks of the war in which most of the leaders of the LTTE were killed with General Fonseka at the helm of the Army. Prior to that I have acted as the Minister of Defence five times during the height of the war." Maithripala Sirisena's Interview to Daily Mirror (Published: January 2, 2015).

Source: <http://dbsjeyaraj.com/dbsj/archives/36931>

Here is what Economist wrote:

- "Sirisena is hardly a beacon of hope for the Tamils: he was acting as defence minister in the nightmarish final fortnight of the war"

Source: <http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21637389-encouragingly-mahinda-rajapaksa-faces-real-battle-win-re-election-president-better>

Recently, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report about these killings and recommended a hybrid judicial mechanism for accountability. UN Human Rights Council in Geneva is following up on his report.

After the report was published President Sirisena said: "We managed to stop UN publishing names of perpetrators".

Source: <http://www.jdslanka.org/index.php/news-features/politics-a-current-affairs/558-we-managed-to-stop-un-publishing-names-of-perpetrators-sirisena>

Here are the basic facts:

- Around 70,000 Tamils were killed in six months and women were sexually assaulted and raped by Sri Lankan Security Forces in 2009. (UN Internal Review Report).

- Several 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.
- Sri Lankan Government also restricted food and medicine for Tamils, resulting in large numbers dying from starvation and many of the injured bleeding to death.
- There are 90,000 Tamil war widows. (May 2012 report by British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Human Rights and Democracy).
- Due to the ethnic nature of the conflict, no one was held accountable for the repeated mass killings of Tamils since 1958.
- Members of the Sri Lankan Security forces are almost exclusively from the Sinhalese community and the victims are all from the Tamil community.

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