

Tamil's Walk For Justice in Sri Lanka Threatened By Police. Journalists, Members of Parliament Served With Stay Order

"Peaceful Walk is to Highlight Abuses Against Tamils & to Implement Tamil's Joint Appeal UN High Commissioner for Human Rights & to UN Human Rights Council"

BATTICALOA, SRI LANKA, February 1, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ --

A peaceful walk organized by North and East Civil Society Organizations to highlight abuses against Tamils was threatened by the police and stay orders were issued against Journalists, current and former Member's of Parliament to prevent them from covering or participating in this walk.

This walk is planed to begin on February 3rd from Pothuvil in the Eastern province and will end in Polihandy in the Northern province.

The Walk is to highlight the following issues:

- 1) Continuing land grab in Tamil areas and converting Tamil's traditional and historical places into Sinhalese areas by establishing Buddhist temples after destroying Hindu temples. As of now around 200 Hindu temples were effected.
- 2) Muslims who died due to COVID are cremated against the wishes of the families and against Islamic teachings.
- 3) Tamils in the upcountry have been urging for pay raise of 1,000 rupees, but the Government is not responding to their demands.
- 4) Since the war ended ten years ago, militarization of Tamil areas is continuing and Tamils historical identity is destroyed with the aim to change demography in favor of Sinhalese, using different government departments, especially archeological department. Also, Government sponsored Sinhalese settlements are continuing.
- 5) Tamil cattle owners are facing numerous problems, where their gracing areas are being occupied by Sinhalese and their cows killed.

6) PTA has been used to imprison Tamil youths without charge or trial for over 40 years are now being used against Muslims.

7) Tamil political prisoners have been imprisoned for years without trial. The Government have pardoned Sinhalese on a regular basis, but none of the Tamil political prisoners were pardoned.

8) Families of the enforced disappeared have been protesting to find their loved ones, but the Government refuses to give them an answer.

9) Tamils have been denied the Right to Remember their war dead, as demonstrated by denying remembrance events, destruction of cemeteries of the war dead and demolition of memorials.

10) Government is targeting Tamil journalists who cover these abuses and Tamil Civil Society activists who protest these abuses.

11) To Implement Tamil's Joint Appeal to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and to UN Human Rights Council Member States.

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