

14 December 2012
London, United Kingdom
PETITION

UK's support for Sri Lanka's genocidal acts against Eelam Tamil students concerns activists.

More than 50 students from the University of Jaffna in the country of Eelam Tamils have been arrested and incarcerated by the occupying Sri Lankan military since 27 November 2012. They are detained on ill founded claims of terrorism in internment camps part funded by the UK, nearly four years after the Tamils silenced weapons. Their real act of defiance against the occupying forces were the remembrance of their war dead on 27 November and a peaceful rally against military occupation on 28 November. Instead of legitimising the genocidal acts of Sri Lanka aimed at erasing the collective memories of a nation, UK should work to safeguard the fundamental rights of Eelam Tamils.

On 27 November 2012 Eelam Tamils around the world remembered their war dead. While students at the University of Jaffna in the country of Eelam Tamils were lighting candles inside their dormitories, armed officials of the occupying Sri Lankan military launched raids and prevented remembrance.

On 28 November students held a peaceful rally to condemn military action and the occupation. They were mercilessly assaulted in acts reminiscent of the 1970s when violent suppression of peaceful rallies led to fully fledged armed opposition to Sri Lankan military occupation at land, sea and air.

Since the rally more than 50 students have been arrested and incarcerated by the occupying forces on ill founded claims of terrorism.

As in 2008 and 2009, when Sri Lanka murdered more than 147,000 Eelam Tamils, the UK has decided to silently nod approvals to the actions of Sri Lanka.

UK part funds the internment camps where the students are incarcerated. UK's continued labelling of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which represents Eelam Tamils' national aspirations, as terrorists, nearly four years after the silencing of arms, allows Sri Lanka to use the same tag against students to justify its actions.

The UK, which created the modern Sri Lanka state for convenience during the heydays of colonialism, seems little interested in correcting the wrongs of a stained history. Instead it is underwriting the genocidal acts of Sri Lanka state, offering its support at every international fora.

Eelam Tamils and friends gathered outside the Prime Minister's office at 10 Downing Street every day since 10 December call upon the UK to pressure Sri Lanka to immediately release the arrested students. The UK should stop funding the internment camps and cease labelling the LTTE as terrorists while all activities of the organisation remain peaceful.

Signed

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