

T A F N Z TAMIL ACTION FRONT, NEW ZEALAND



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17 February 2013

President Barak Obama, USA

Your Excellency!

Continuing atrocities and genocide of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Against the background of intended US resolution on Sri Lanka at the UN Human Rights Council Sessions in March 2013, may we bring to your notice certain happenings against the Tamils in broad daylight amidst thousands of people, including Sinhalese leaders of political Parties, leader of the Opposition Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe inclusive.

Nearly 10,000 persons displaced by the High Security Zone in and around the Palaly Military Camp, Airport and Port Areas for over 22 years demonstrated against demolition of their houses in those areas by the Army to expand its High Security Zone.

This is despite a Supreme Court order to give back the lands ad houses to the people after discussion. The people staged a Satyagraha inside the Dhurga Amman Temple in Tellippalai where even leaders of political Parties of all shades took part. Soon after the leader of the Opposition spoke and left, some men in civils, believed to be Army Intelligence personnel, entered the premises and started attacking the Satyagrahis. They were seized by the people including MPs and handed over to the Police who released them and they were taken away in an Army vehicle witnessed by all the people. This public event was denied by the Police spokesman.

Incidentally the three Service Chiefs and the Police Chief have defied the Supreme Court order and are supporting a President who has virtually suspended the Constitution and are carrying out illegal orders.

This is not all. The journalists are still being targeted. Faraz Shauketaly, the intelligence journalist of the well known Sunday Leader in Sri Lanka who has also a UK Citizenship was shot at and he is reported to be out of danger. Earlier the Editor Lasantha Wickrematunga was shot dead and no action has still been taken. Later the next editor, Fredrica Jansz was abused in filth and threatened and forced out of the country as a refugee.

Co-Chairs: New Zealand -Tamil Society, Tamil Forum & Tamil Senior Citizens' Association.

Three sitting Tamil MPs and two former MPs were killed. Currently Mr. S. Sritharan is being threatened as he is exposing army atrocities in Vanni. He escaped a shooting attempt on him while on way back from Parliament. He is being questioned on his exposures in Parliament – a violation of his Parliamentary privilege. His life is in danger and you must out of compelling developments raise this issue with Sri Lanka. There is no freedom at all.

The above events of the recent past confirm the oft repeated allegations by the Tamil Parliamentarians and the Tamil civil society activists that, despite the bloated false propaganda carried out by the Government of Sri Lanka, with the help of selected local Sinhala and English media and some well cared for, foreign journalists and politicians, often invited at State expenses and taken around in well orchestrated and conducted tours, the Tamils are being continually oppressed militarily, depriving them of their basic rights to life, land, property and means to exist.

When the Supreme Court order ruling the Parliamentary Select Committee proceedings against the Chief Justice as invalid and ultra ultra vires the Constitution, and the consequential order to the Inspector General of Police to provide full security to the then Chief Justice were all breached, and when the President ventured to sack the Chief Justice, he virtually suspended the Constitution and took the powers into his hands.

Coming events cast their shadows before.

When the application for a review of the Court of Appeal order relating to the impeachment of the Chief Justice was taken up at the Supreme Court, the Panel consisted of three Judges, one of whom, the President of the Panel was the same and only Judge who testified against the then Chief Justice at the PSC. The "usurper" Chief Justice himself should have kept out this particular Judge from the Panel.

The said Judge should also have had the judicial decency not to be a member of any panel that goes into this particular matter. Any consideration worthy of any validity must be by a full bench or at least by a bench of seven Judges. One cannot miss out the fact that this Chief Justice was brought in, for this sort of specific purposes.

As it is, since the Constitution stands violated if not suspended, there is no Constitutional protection for anyone, more so the Tamils.

The Government of Sri Lanka claimed and still boasts that it carried out a humanitarian operation and rescued the Tamils from the clutches of the LTTE.

This claim is believed by some of the gullible in the International community. The forced acquisition of lands belonging to the Tamils, forcing them to continue their living as IDPs without any assistance, depriving them of their usual means of living, interfering militarily in almost every sphere of their life speak to contrary exposing the core intention and have reached the climax.

As you will recall, during the East Timor Crises, US appointed the well known tough talking special diplomat Richard Holbrooke and he named the Indonesian Army Chief who was responsible for most of the trouble in East Timor and called on him to immediately halt all his militarized oppressive measures against East Timorese.

The time has come for your administration to appoint a tough diplomat to deal with the atrocious dictatorial Government if you really mean to save the Tamils from torturous life with attendant suffering from all wants – food, health, education and their right to their traditional homes.

In both the Northern and Eastern Provinces, the Governors, Brigadier General C.A. Chandrasiri, of the North and Rear Admiral Mohan Wijewickrema of the East and Major General Mahinda Haturusinghe incumbent Commanding Officer in the North are exceedingly oppressive and must be removed immediately.

Civilian Officers who are NOT Political Party activists must replace them. A structure with powers to overlook and control the administration so that the Tamils can resettle in their own homes and restart their livelihoods without hindrance must be put in place immediately with civilian community activists also as members. There must be co-ordinating bodies in Principal towns so that there will be no disruption of the normalcy of civilian life.

This may seem ultra Constitutional but where there is no Constitutional protection, this is the only workable alternative if Tamils are to be saved from ongoing genocide.

The territoriality of the Tamils must be redeemed and preserved if the Tamil genocide is to be stopped.

It may be recalled that the Portuguese did not alter any laws or land rights in the Jaffna Kingdom and the Kotte Kingdom which they captured.

The Dutch not only preserved practices of customs and laws in the two kingdoms but also they even codified the laws and customs and maintained them intact. The British annexed Kandy and went to the extent of maintaining intact all relevant customs and laws in all the three territories.

The Kandyan Law of the Kandyans and the Thesawalamai Law of the Tamils were codified and incorporated as valid laws and they remain so to this day. The recent vesting of all powers relating to lands in the North in the Governor by the President is not only illegal but also preposterous as it is intended to destroy the Territoriality of the Tamils. The recently concluded Provincial Chief Ministers Conference held in Badulla reiterated their stand unanimously in demanding all powers enshrined in the 13th Amendment - in particular they demanded the land rights as exclusive for them.

This proposed body must negotiate with the regime and get **ALL** the political prisoners released including a number of innocent women and children, some born in Prisons. In particular please get Dr. Siva Shankar released forthwith. He is a person besides being a kind and a dedicated Doctor is also a person with passion for people and their well being.

Your intended resolution to be moved at the Geneva Sessions in March is a welcome move if only provision is also made for the creation of the structure outlined above, so imperative at this critical juncture.

Otherwise, it will only allow time for the full accomplishment of the genocide of the Tamils and the transformation of Sri Lanka into Sli Lang Ho (as there is no R sound in Chinese language), a satellite Chinese State on the southern tip of the hitherto peace paradise of India (for which the Sonia Congress Government in India must be

congratulated.) Sri Lanka's diamond diplomacy has flattened Indian diplomacy and bureaucracy.

May we also draw your kind attention to the Special Report on "**Preventing Genocide"** prepared by Madam Madeline Albright and Team and handed over to you when you assumed duty for the first time. This report emphasises the need to be alert and to nib in the bud any attempt at Genocide.

The Madeline Albright Team made this request to you:" We urge America's 44th President to demonstrate at the outset that preventing genocide and mass atrocities is a national priority. A new administration should develop and promulgate a government-wide policy to this end. We recommend a new standing interagency mechanism for analysis of threats and co-ordination of appropriate preventive action As part of a comprehensive policy framework for genocide prevention. Achieving this goal will require the President to muster political will that has too often been lacking in the past."

"The world agrees that genocide is unacceptable and yet genocide and mass killings continue. Our challenge is to match words to deeds and stop allowing the unacceptable. That task, simple on the surface, is in fact one of the most persistent puzzles of our times. We have a duty to find the answer before the vow of "never again" is once again betrayed."

"At a Media briefing former Republican Senator Chuck Hagel when posed with the question:

"There is a genocidal war going on in Sri Lanka and nothing being done.. Unless we bring these leaders to a moral standard. Nothing can be done. What do you think about it? His reply was".

You are exactly right"

Nothing tangible was done by your administration with regard to the ongoing genocide in Sri Lanka in your first term.

We hope you will now take meaningful effective measures to save the Tamils from genocide.

Yours Sincerely,

A.Theva Rajan, Co-ordinator