

# Conference on Tamil People's Rights

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03 March 2013 | Geneva, Switzerland

**Advocates for the Tamil People's Rights have come out with the following resolution to address the national question of the Eelam Tamils, where genocidal policies are persistently and systematically deployed against the Tamil people in their homeland in the North and East of the island setting a dangerous paradigm for the entire world:**

**Whereas;** the United Nations Charter declares "All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Article 1

**Whereas;** the specific national character of the Eelam Tamils in the island has a solid historical base – consisting of a geographically defined homeland with a distinct language, culture and collective consciousness.

**Whereas;** with the European colonial conquest of the island they lost their sovereignty, first to the Portuguese and then to the Dutch, it was the British, who came after, that made the fundamental change within the island of imposing a unitary structure in such a way as to give the numerically larger Sinhala nation dominance over the Eelam Tamils.

**Whereas;** from the time after the British gave political independence to the island by transferring power to the Sinhala controlled unitary state the Tamils tried patiently to use non-violent methods of protests only to face spiraling racial persecution, discrimination and state sponsored violence.

**Whereas;** the failure of three decades non-violent struggle to share sovereignty with the Sinhala nation culminated in the historic Vaddukkodai declaration of independence in 1976 which was endorsed by the mandate of the people of the North and East in the 1977 elections.

**Whereas;** the violent Sinhala rejection of electoral voice of the Tamils in 1977 meant a further 30 years of militant struggle, culminating in Eelam Tamils earning sovereignty in a *de facto* state that was tacitly recognized in an internationally-backed peace process in 2002.

**Whereas;** the unprecedented vote of support from the Tamil polity for the Vanni administration's right to negotiate for the Eelam Tamil's rights was expressed at the 2004 elections, giving a clear Tamil endorsement of the *de facto* state.

**Whereas;** the strong international support for a negotiated peace seen in 2002, with 'parity of esteem' accorded to both parties was gradually undermined with a section of the co-chairs of the Sri Lankan peace process going into war drive in the middle east, with parity replaced with bans and restrictions on the Tamil side and military support for the Sinhala side.

**Whereas;** the negative developments internationally was followed by warmongering politics of the Sinhala supremacists gaining the upper hand, shifting the balance decisively against the peace process and the existence of the *de facto* state, the genocidal consequences of which is now indirectly acknowledged by the UN panel report and Norway's evaluation report of the peace process.

**Whereas;** an explicit, intense, intended and accelerated process of structural genocide in the militarily occupied North and East still continues is the reality of what Sri Lanka calls a “post-conflict” situation.

**Whereas;** considering the current ground realities in the Tamil homeland, which include heavy militarization, accelerated Sinhala colonization, and structural abuse of the Eelam Tamils, all targeted to destroy the identity of the Tamil nation and the territorial contiguity of the Tamil homeland.

**Whereas;** the current Sri Lankan constitution specifically the 6th amendment prevents the representatives of the Tamil nation from the island from articulating the political demands of the Eelam Tamils.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this should ensure the complete removal of the Sri Lankan military and security forces from the Tamil homeland, besides the disarming of the paramilitaries.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** any solution must be considered only on the understanding of the Eelam Tamils as a nation, with their distinct territoriality in the North and East of the island, and facilitating free and safe travel for the Eelam Tamil Diaspora and refugees in Tamil Nadu to their homeland.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** any internal mechanisms, like the LLRC, proposed by perpetrators of these terrible crimes - the Sri Lankan state - to address injustices meted out to the Tamils is fundamentally flawed.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** only an independent international investigation into the charges of genocide and crimes against humanity, as espoused in the 2010 Permanent People’s Tribunal’s findings, can suffice.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** therefore, any just solution for the Eelam Tamils cannot be confined to the existing parameters of the Sri Lankan constitution.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** it is not within the ambit of the Tamil nation and its representatives to speak about the political aspirations of the Muslim people in the island. However, any just solution for the Eelam Tamil nation must rightfully incorporate a just and equitable resolution on the question of the Muslim people in the Tamil homeland.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** as the Sri Lankan state has drowned in blood the political expression of the Eelam Tamils – which was clearly heard in 1977 and 2004 through Sri Lanka’s own electoral system – that there should be an international decision to conduct and monitor a referendum - among the traditional inhabitants of the areas of the historical habitation of the Tamil speaking people in the island of Sri Lanka and its Diaspora.

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Geneva