



வலிந்துகாணாமல் ஆக்கப்பட்டவர்களின்குடும்பங்களின் அமைப்பு
வடக்குகிழக்குமாகாணம்

**Association for Relatives of the Enforced Disappearance
North & Eastern Province**

திகதி }
Date } 30.08..2019

The Commissioner,
Human Rights Council,
United Nations,
Geneva.

Appeal by the Victims from Sri Lanka

Several International disappearance days had elapsed since we commenced our attention drawing struggle. Today, we are commemorating an another International enforced disappearance day amidst frustration due to loss of hope on the international community and the UN which were tremendously trusted by us every year, that the fair justice would be meted out to us at least before the forth coming International enforced disappearance days of the respective years. Nevertheless, without losing our hope, today we are submitting this memo and urge the international community and the UN once again to intervene to our everlasting issue and rescue our loved ones very early.

We, the relatives of the enforced disappearances from the Northern and Eastern parts of Sri Lanka had been incessantly protesting for the last 922days demanding the Sri Lankan Government to reveal the factual situation of our loved ones whom we had handed over to the Sri Lanka security forces at the end of the war in Wanni in the year 2009.

Our loved ones were made to disappear within the army occupied territory, by the Sri Lankan army and by the Paramilitary group through various ways and means such as white van abductions, and arrest while at home.

Upon cessation of the last phase of war in Sri Lanka in the year 2009, the Sri Lankan forces had announced over the loudspeakers to surrender all those who were in the Liberation Tiger movement (LTTE), even they were in that movement at least one day, and those who had been supportive to the movement in various ways. The army had also given a fake promise that the surrendeewould be released right away if they are found innocent and non-guilty and others who found to be the LTTE carder would be released after being rehabilitated. Believing the fake promise of the Sri Lankan army we had handed over our loved ones to the Sri Lankan army commanders who were in-charge for the forefront check post and at the border line check post. Many LTTE carder members surrendered on their own. Moreover, many of our relatives had been made to disappear while they were receiving treatments at various hospitals and many others after being taken for inquiry by the army.

Being the eyewitnesses to those incidents, we the victimized mothers are still alive. Already more than 50 mothers who are involved in our attention drawing struggle had already died due to heart attack & due to various diseases. It is to be mentioned at this juncture, that there won't be anyone to search for their

disappeared loved ones in the future after their demise. The remaining mothers who are engaged in this struggle too, become mentally and physically weak day by day and counting their days.

Some mothers had even handed over their loved ones as a whole family. In such families small children, infants and elders are included. The whole families were forcibly made to disappeared. We are fighting for their release too.

There won't be anybody to fight for this sentimental task, if we too died like those mothers in the future. This is what the Sri Lankan government's expectation.

At the present political environment, it is likely that there would be a change of government in Sri Lanka shortly. If such situation arises and the perpetrators who were the cause for disappearance of our loved ones come to the power and capture the regime in Sri Lanka, many mothers involved in our struggle like us may also go missing. Hence, we urge the international community and the United Nations to take early action to find out our loved ones before the government changes.

The Sri Lanka government, which is not ready to mete out justice for our grievances had now unilaterally, constituting the Office of the Missing Persons (OMP) ignoring the recommendations of the consultation task force, which was constituted under resolution 30/1 of the United Nations organization. We had already notified to the H.E the president Maithripala Sirisena, the Chairman of the OMP, High Commissioners and the Commissioner of the United Nations Human Rights Commission about the short coming and the powerlessness of the OMP which was hastily constituted without taking in to consideration, the desires and the requirements of the victimized people.

The International Community and the United Nations Organization are not in a position to understand the cunningness of the Sri Lankan government, reiterating us to find the solution from the OMP. Hence, we who lost faith in the Sri Lanka government are now compelled to convince the international community, the lack and powerlessness of the OMP.

Hence, on the 16.05.2019, the representative of our association met the OMP authorities and came to a compromise. According to which, we will handover evidences and witnesses of five disappearance cases to the OMP at the first stage and the OMP should investigate into these five cases and let us know the results very soon, and by which convince us to trust OMP. Accordingly, on the 20.07.2019 we had sent necessary documents of five disappeared persons to the chairman of the OMP. Now the ball is at the foot of the OMP. Hence, the international community should refrain from thrusting us to go behind OMP and should take the moral responsibility and give pressure to the OMP to execute its responsibility properly. The Sri Lanka government should refrain from opening OMP offices District wise secretly and in bad faith and attempting to pay compensation or reparation to the victims who are the members of the "Association for the Relatives for the Disappearances (ARED)", until an answer is sent to us with regard to the five cases of the disappearance which we sent to the Chairman of OMP on 20.07.2019.

While we are at the roadside and struggling for more than 920 days and perishing due to ill health and heart attack, demanding justice to our grievances, why the Sri Lanka government attempting to constitute the reparation mechanism instead of constituting the mechanism for the justice?

We would like to reveal the Sri Lanka government and the international community clearly, that we need only the justice and not the reparation.

The OMP is just one, like the previous commissions constituted by the Sri Lankan government time to time to investigate matters regarding missing persons and nothing significant to do something newly and constructively.

If a fair justice is meted out to us, it should be with the intervention of the international community.

"Justice Delayed, Justice Denied"

Thank you

On behalf of the relatives of the Enforced Disappearance

* *L. Anurajah.*

Association for the Relatives of the Enforced Disappeared
North & East Provinces

அ.லீனாதேவி
செயலாளர்
கா.அ.அ. சங்கம்
வடக்கு, கிழக்கு மாகாணம்