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Executive Committee

MIDDLE EAST | EUROPE | AUSTRALIA | NORTH AMERICA

28th January 2019

Media Release

The Defense Secretary's Misidentified Priority

According to a recent report published, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Hemasiri Fernando has invited expatriate Tamils or Tamil diaspora to contact the Defence Ministry and to report about the credible atrocities committed by Sri Lankan security forces. This is indeed a strange attempt as the majority of vocal members of "the expatriate Tamil community" have been highly critical of Sri Lanka's defence forces for having stopped the Tamil eelam dream of the LTTE Tamil terrorists at Nandikadal lagoon. Therefore, the response, if any to the Defence Secretary's clarion call will only result in further complications with obviously biased inputs.

It is common knowledge that there is a substantial yet many questionable and some fabricated published reports which had been submitted by the pro-LTTE expatriate Tamils to the UNHCR and by other well-known NGOs and also to Western Governments which the Defence Secretary have ready access to. He should go through these reports and start first to consider to separate the facts from the fiction and to take action, if required. This the priority for the country to restore its image in the forums in the West.

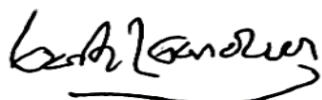
At the same time we draw your attention to the documents such as the Census details of 2008/9/10 , LLRC conclusions , Re- Appraisal report to OISL prepared by Sir Desmond De Silva, Prof D.M. Crane and Sir Geoffrey Nice and other also authentic reports

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submitted by Lord Naseby to the UK Parliament and the missives forwarded by two senior officers of the UK and US army stationed in Sri Lanka about the 'atrocities committed and the responsible steps taken by the defence forces' already made available to the Government and to the Ministry of Defence. Further, there are detailed article by Kath Noble, Dr Delgoda- Tammita and Dr Micheal Roberts disproving the 'numbers' of the Tamil civilians said to have been killed'. If the defence secretary decides to comb out the issues he will realize that the members of our defence forces have gone that extra mile to protect tens of thousands of civilian lives in overcoming the Tamil terrorist LTTE rather than engaging themselves in atrocities.

Further, we, the Global Sri Lankan Forum compiled a comprehensive statement titled "**In defence of the armed forces of Sri Lanka**" on the one- sided OISL report prepared by the UNHRC and co-sponsored by the present government in September 2015. You may access the said report from the web site of the GSLF.

We are waiting for the Defence Secretary to go hard with the task of nailing the untruths about our defence forces and counter wild allegations as a critical priority rather than acting penny wise and pound foolish.



Ranjith Soysa
Media Coordinator
For Global Sri Lankan Forum

Copy to:

HE The President of Sri Lanka
Leader of the Opposition of the Parliament of Sri Lanka
Speaker of the Parliament of Sri Lanka