

UN Human Rights Council 40th Session – Side Event, 15.03.2019

LTTE Beyond Civilized Means

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that the UN Human Rights Council is an important institution for the people of the world. Because, I believe that, just as mine, everyone else's human rights need to be protected. This council has been instituted, to protect human rights of ALL the people of the world, not only of those, that its bureaucrats feel fit to protect, for whatever reason. The most powerful country in the world, the United States of America, has left this Council criticizing it as "hypo-critical and self-servicing". When one looks at how this council has been treating my country Sri Lanka regarding its engagement with the fascist Tamil Movement led by the Tamil Tigers, one gets the feeling that United States's criticism may not be incorrect!

Regrdless of obvious benefits of the end of war, UNHCR is working towards racial segregation in Sri Lanka.

"Fascist Tamil movement" is NOT a generalized term for the Tamils of this world: "Fascist Tamils", dear Ladies and Gentlemen, are the Tamil Tigers, but not only; it includes also those who supported the Tamil Tigers by various means, including, financing the silencing of opposing views and promoting racial segregation. One does not need to be "Tamil" by ethnicity to be a "Fascist Tamil". Adele Balasingham, who recruited child soldiers, garlanded them with cyanide capsules and brain washed them to become suicide bombers, is one of them. Racial segregation, dear ladies and gentlemen, is a fascist ideology. We are here as a group today to fight for integration, as against for segregation.

The actions of Tamil Tigers posed an existential threat to an endangered minority group of this world, the Sinhalese. Why are Sinhalese an endangered minority? For about 80 million Tamils living in this world, who can connect to each other by means of ethnicity, language and religion, 15 million Sinhalese are a minority in this world. Why are Sinhalese an endangered populace in this world? Over centuries they have had to fight for their survival from attacks by rulers with imperialist objectives from neighboring Tamil Nadu. Buddhist temples were attacked and destroyed, ethnic cleansing took place. For another 400 years, they have had to bare with colonizing Europeans. Sinhalese language was suppressed, their identity was taken away. And, from the mid 1970's they have had to suffer the aggression of Tamil Tigers.

In the year 1215 AD, the prosperous Sinhala Kingdom of Polonnaruwa succumbed to the aggression of Kalinga Magha, from South India. They carried out systematic attacks on the societal elite, for example, the engineers who cared about waterways to the rice fields. As the rice fields could no more be worked, the normal farmer falk, receded to the south.

The attacks on the Sinhalese that followed till 2009 by the Tamil Tigers is an extension of attacks that took place in 1215 on Polonnaruwa. Because, the strategy was similar. The leaders were taken away one by one – aimed at weakening the backbone of a populace to make a people without leadership. President Premadasa was killed on the street, Presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake was bombed at an election campaign. A suicide bomber attacked President Kumaratunga. Our beloved Tamil Foreign Minister Kadirgramar was assassinated. In fact recently, in January this year, "a main suspect" of the Kadirgramar's assassination was caught in Villingen-Schwenningen, Germany, after living in Germany for long years, having come to Germany as a refugee. How many such refugees are still around in Europe?

The Tamil fascist hatred continued to destroying places of worship important to the Sinhala Buddhists. It carried out a massacre of pilgrims at the Sri Maha Bodhi in Anuradhapura – imagine a massacre at the sanctuary of Lourdes in France or at the Mecca! Then it bombed the Dalada Maligawa (the temple of the tooth relic) a place of worship important to the Buddhists of the whole world. Now, imagine an anti-christian terrorist group bombing the Vatican or the cathedral in Cologne! Imagine yourselves the destroying of Buddhist statues in Afghanistan by Taliban! In Aranthalawa, the LTTE carried out a massacre on a group of Buddhist monks. Why is this hatred against Buddhism? Many of us human beings, at times when we feel we have lost everything, we turn to religion as a last hope. That was exactly the aim of this fascist movement – to rid the Sinhalese of their last hope and drive them into a state of confusion. Today legislation is being drawn by Tamil leaders to exclude the Sinhalese from their controlled areas, and to ban Buddhist temples.

The aggression of the fascist Tamil movement did not end with killing the Sinhalese or attacking Buddhist temples. It killed Tamils. A friend of mine from the North of Sri Lanka, told me “you know, our cousins, killed each other!” It killed the leader of Tamil group TELO Sri Sabarathnam. In April 1986 the LTTE annihilated the TELO. According to Indian writer Narayan Swamy, this is how one TELO cadre described the attack: “I saw 12 of our people shot; they were killing even those who gave us water. I was put into a van and driven to Achchadu village. That was the LTTE torture camp. Nithi began to cry saying he wants see his mother; I pleaded we were all Tamils. One LTTE boy then shot Nithi with a 9 mm pistol. Parts of Nithi’s brains shattered on my shoulder. To terrorize me they fired near my ears. They put Nithi’s body on tyres and burnt right there”. The Tamil fascist movement went on kill their opponents. It assassinated K. Pathmanabha, the leader of EPRLF and massacred his colleagues in Madras. In Colombo it gunned down Uma Maheswaran, the leader of PLOTE.

The Tamil fascist movement went on to gun down Tamil intellectuals. An LTTE suicide bomber took the life of Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, and shot dead Dr. Rajini Thiranagama – both respected academics.

While fascism can be difficult to define, fascists are identified by similarities. They embrace segregation of peoples. Exalts the race above the individual, promotes nationalism at all costs. Forcibly suppress the opposition; they scapegoat and demonize other groups. Headed by dictatorial leader, expansionist, exclusionary (means, excludes some people from entering a geographical entity).

Sri Lanka’s war came to an end in 2009 thanks to great sacrifices made by SL’s security forces and its command; 300,000 innocent Tamils were saved in the last stages of the war.

Now what are the benefits of bringing the war to an end by defeating the Tamil Tigers?

1. People in the north of SL can live without fear and can look forward to a better future
2. People in the south can breathe without fear of suicide bombers
3. Non-LTTE Tamils are no more subject to suppression by the LTTE
4. Tamil children can go school, instead of having to become a child soldier
5. Tamils have access to democratic government structures like the provincial council to do meaningful work for their community

In other words, the Sri Lankan security forces have worked hard to ensure the human rights of Sri Lanka’s Tamils as much as they saved the rights of mine. Is thankfulness a human value? Has the HRC ever thanked the SL security forces for securing the Tamils of Sri Lanka a peaceful future? No.

Instead, this council is calling for actions to demonize them. This council's actions has created fear in the Sinhalese community about their existence. Well knowing the threat that it poses to the Sinhalese community, given their minority status in the South Asian Geo-political region, it is resorting to conspiratorial methods to bind Sri Lanka's government to co-sponsor resolutions against itself, without a mandate from its people, even going to the extent get it to devolve power on a racial basis. That, dear Ladies and Gentlemen, is the same racial segregation driven fascist ideology that the LTTE pursued. In doing that this council is helping to appease those who was behind that ideology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Germany is one country that has opted to sponsor the new resolution against Sri Lanka. I am sure it is not the wish of the German people to do so. There are long years of bindings between German people and Sri Lankans, specially the Sinhalese. German and Sinhalese languages are said to originate from same Indo-German roots. And, ask any tourist who go to Sri Lanka, how they feel in Sri Lanka and how they are treated. The German high-minded bureaucrats who drive this resolution are not mindful about the good relations between German and Sri Lankan common people, and how it can aggravate the relations. It seems that they believe devolution of power along racial lines would be a solution to Sri Lanka's problems. More than anyone else in the world, these bureaucrats should know about the negative effects of efforts of racial segregation. I ask these bureaucrats, if you believe that power devolution on racially segregated lines is a solution to a country's ethnic related problems, why wasn't a separate region created for the Jews of Germany within Germany?

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to bring your attention to the following paragraph written in the information material provided by office of the HRC high commissioner about its work relating to Sri Lanka.

"Although a non-state actor cannot formally become party to human rights treaties, it is now increasingly accepted that non-state groups exercising de facto control over a part of the State's territory must respect certain human rights obligations of persons in that territory.

In carrying out its work, the OISL will be guided at all times by the principles of independence, impartiality, objectivity, transparency, integrity and "do no harm"

In President Trump's words, these are fake words! Why? While talking about non-state actors' obligation to respect human rights, and while accusing the Sri Lankan security forces and its Command of human rights violations, this Council has cunningly set the starting date for the investigations' validity period, in a manner that the investigations will automatically give impunity to most of atrocities committed by the LTTE. If I am not incorrect, the starting date of the validity period is 2001. Many of the atrocities committed by the LTTE, mentioned above by me, precede that period. So it is clear to the Sinhalese community in Sri Lanka that this councils' intensions are not to improve the Human Rights in SL, but to appease the segregation driven, Tamil fascist movement and to do harm.

If this council wants to have credibility of its intentions and actions, relating to the human rights in Sri Lanka, I call upon this council to do the following:

1. To recognize the Sinhalese community as an endangered minority in the geo-political region of South Asia, given the struggle that they have had to put up to protect their identity, and culture, which is unique, and to prevent from actions that create fear in them about their existence, and to take actions to protect them for long years to come.
2. Reset the validity date of the period to be investigated to 1980. It shall investigate and punish the perpetrators behind the 1983 riots that caused many innocent Sri Lankan Tamils to suffer and triggered hatred.
3. Include the southern insurgency, known as JVP riots, in your investigation that ended in 1989.
4. If above is not possible, call an end to your current actions on Sri Lanka and allow its people to start afresh on their own.

I conclude. Thank you!